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Role of Translation in the Present Era*

The theoretical, linguistic and other aspects of Translation in the Present Era were discussed at a seminar held in New Delhi on March 30-31, 1985, under the auspices of the National Book Trust. Among the subjects covered by the participants who had come from various parts of the country were Translation of Children's Literature in Indian Languages; Problems and Prospects of Translation of Creative Literature: Fiction, Poetry and Plays; Translation of Classics and Technical Books; and Translation and Concept of World Literature.

Welcoming the participants, Mr Krishna Kripalani, Chairman, National Book Trust, said NBT had a wide translation project entitled Aadan Pradan under which some select literary works of one Indian language were translated into other languages of the country. The main object was to acquaint readers from other languages with the way of life, the feelings and thoughts and the peculiar qualities of that particular region. NBT tried to get the translations done directly. Where this was not possible, as in the case of a direct translation from Malayalam or Telugu to Assamese or Punjabi, NBT got the book translated into Hindi and then made it a base for translations into other languages.

In NBT's Nehru Bal Pustakalaya series, which was meant for children, books were translated simultaneously into major Indian languages, using the same text, the same illustrations and the same format.

Mr Kripalani recalled Mahatma Gandhi's statement that in a multilingual country like ours the need for translation could not be overemphasized. It was a misconception that a translation work was a second rate work. Indeed, a good translator was as difficult to find as a good author and both were worthy of respect.

"A good translation must be faithful to the original and expressive and lucid in the language of translation in which it should read like the original.

"A translation has been compared—somewhat frivolously—to a woman. If beautiful, she is not likely to be faithful; if faithful, the odds are that she is not beautiful. So a translation that is both faithful and beautiful is indeed an achievement deserving of high praise".

In his introductory remarks, Dr Lokenath Bhattacharya, Director, National Book Trust, said: "Translation is a part of our exi-

*National Seminar held in New Delhi on March 30-31, 1985.

Recommendations of National Seminar

1. Status of Translators: Equal prominence to the translators. Their names may be mentioned along with the original authors on the title page. Statutory provision should be made in this regard.

2. Royalty to Translators: A lump-sum amount to translators should be paid first and a percentage of royalty should also be paid. The seminar recommends that the translators when paid on a royalty basis should be paid an advance against royalty on publication amounting to 50% of the royalty that would accrue on the sale of the first edition. When a translator is paid outright for his translation, the level of payment should in no case be lower than Rs. 75 - per thousand words of the original payable on the submission of translation.

3. Selection of Translators: A national register of translators should be prepared in consultation with the universities and other literary bodies.

4. Editorial Committee for Vetting: An Editorial Committee for vetting should be set up in all organisations for each piece of translation to improve the standard of translations published in the country.

5. Central Copyright Clearance Agency: NBT/SAHITYA AKADEMI should function as a Central copyright clearance agency.

6. Translation Planning: In the selection of books for translation, there should be proper planning. Organisations like NBT and Sahitya Akademi should set up

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Role of Translation in the Present Era

stence. We live in a growingly small world, where communication, at almost every level, requires an act of translation of some kind or the other. If we leave out the consideration for the global family, of which all of us are increasingly an integral part, and take the case of our own country only, even then the importance of translation in our life assumes an inevitable and essential role.

"Translation, in a fundamental sense, it must be said, is the basis of all communication. Even if we take the case of original writing in creative fields like literature, or even poetry, where individual expressions come out spontaneously and in an integrated form, a writer has to translate, in concrete signs of his language, the thoughts or images experienced by him. Here, however, we are exclusively concerned with the more mundane use of the term 'translation', seeking to cover in its interpretation the writings in a language requiring to be translated into another.

"In our programme in the National Book Trust we have been engaged in varied translation activities, having as one of our principal concerns the multilingual nature and reality of our country. Books that we publish and translate are not merely liteary, but cover a much more extended area. Books of knowledge of various kinds, books for children, even books that can be used as supplementary reading material in schools and colleges, all these are covered in our programmes. We deal with twelve major Indian languages and also English as written by Indians. In the past, we have organised a number of translators' workshops pertaining to problems and issues in particular languages. Our publishing programme itself is a continuation of our activity in the domain of translation."

In the following pages we publish extracts from some of the papers presented at the Seminar.

Recommendations

a joint committee to choose outstanding books to be translated in various Indian languages. These may be offered to suitable publishers for publication on the basis of supply to them free of cost of the competent translations in the language.

The publisher on his part must be committed to publication of the book within a reasonable period.

7. National Institute of Translation and Interpretation: A national institute of translation and interpretation should be set up, the function of which should be as follows:

(a) Training: conducting full-fledged degree courses and organising short-term orientation courses.

(b) Research on the problems of translation including machine translation.

(c) Translator's service: in practical translation.

8. Seminars/Workshops Refresher Courses: UGC, NBT, Sahitya Akademi should organise regular seminars, workshops and refresher courses for translators, editors, etc.

9. Preparing Aids for Translators: Bilingual, trilingual dictionaries, thesaurus and glossaries and functional dictionaries should be prepared as aids to translators.

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The Answer to Babel*

SAMUEL ISRAEL

After the Great Deluge, the survivors and their descendants, after mutual consultation and as a cooperative effort, set out to build a tower that would reach into heaven, God's own domain. The Lord, angered at this presumption of ordinary mortals, his own creation, thwarted their designs by the simple device of 'confounding their language' so that they no longer understood each other's speech and could no longer cooperate. Being all-powerful, God could just as well have caused the tower to collapse every time it reached a certain height, but that would not have taught the lesson that He wished to teach: not just humility in one's relation to one's Creator, but that, alone, isolated, man is powerless in the face of nature; united in effort and understanding with his fellows he could aim at, if not reach, heaven itself.

So, the Biblical legend goes, people drifted apart, became different peoples and developed different languages and were never again able to challenge God's might. And since then, man has struggled to understand his fellowmen to find the means to cooperate with them in building heaven on earth, but has been repeatedly frustrated; nations go to war, there is hostility between races, and prejudice divides peoples, for they can no longer communicate and bridge the gulfs that divide them.

If I were a believer and fundamentalist who took the Bible literally, as a few among Jews and Christians do, I would say that God has decreed mankind's division into warring or, at least, non-cooperating groups for as long as humankind lasts, and that one must humbly accept His will till doomsday arrives and a new Messiah sets things right. But for most of us this is unacceptable. What then is our answer to Babel?

There have been those who urged the peoples of the world to defy the God of the Old Testament and restore the situation that obtained before Babel—to restore a situation in which the whole world has one language or, at least has one additional language which would be understood the whole world over. The Esperanto movement was an attempt to *create* such a language; French for long attempted to become such a language in many parts of the world; and, today, English is making a serious bid to do the same.

While there is much to be said for accepting two or three widely known languages for international communication as an immediate and practical answer to the current needs of international cooperation and exchange this is obviously no answer to the need of the mass of the peoples of the world, whether in advanced or developing countries. Similarly, coming home to our own situation, developing Hindi as the official language of the Government of India and as a link language for inter-state communication, or even as a national language, while immensely important and necessary, is only a very partial answer to Babel.

The real answer to Babel is to accept it; to welcome it as a valuable result of the fascinating variety of human life and cultural tradition, as the unique mode of expression of the genius of each of the peoples of the earth.

This, I think, is the spirit that has brought us together in this seminar; this and the realization that, having accepted this, our responsibility does not end and that it is also necessary to provide the means of mutual understanding and cultural exchange and cooperation between peoples whether within the country or internationally.

The means, I need hardly now say, is translation. I need hardly stress how important this is for us in India, even as a purely internal matter. For those of us who know English, access to works in European languages is easier and wider than access to the rich treasures of the languages of our fellow Indians. This alone is enough to highlight the urgency and importance of the translator's task in India. There is also the wealth of international literature and thought awaiting discovery by our people as a whole. The vistas are endless.

*The Keynote Paper by Technical Director, National Seminar.

Translating Children's Literature

SISU SANGAMESH*

One may ask what is the need for translation at the cost of neglecting creative literature? It is true that creative writers are awarded and encouraged for their work. But children's literature is a special type of literature by itself. To fill up the dearth in such literature in some of the Indian languages, translation is essential.

Most of the children's literature in Indian languages is translated from the English language. It depicts the life of the people in England, their dresses, customs and traditions and strange environment which are quite different and sometimes quite opposed to ours.

*Editor, Bal Bharati, and President, Karnatak Bal Sahitya Academy, Bijapur.

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While translating stories from English, care should be taken to translate such stories as are acceptable to our culture.

That there is no children's comic literature in Indian languages is not a surprise. *Madhu-Muskan* and *Lot-Pot* may be mentioned as such periodicals in Hindi. But they are not classified as literature. They may create laughter describing contemporary incidents in a comic way. But children welcome good comic literature and enjoy reading it. They prepare themselves mentally to face odds in life. Therefore it is necessary that such literature be selected from any language and translated to provide our children with good literature.

Children's literature is also wanting in drama. Scholars differ in their opinions about children's dramas to be read and dramas to be staged. But to fill this gap in dramatic literature, there is greater need of translation of dramas which make our children bold, shunning stage fear and help develop the art of speech.

It is also found that children's books in Indian languages suffer from lack of literature on science and travel. It is necessary that our children become familiar with the use of science and scientific appliances in our day-to-day life. Writers may take the help of scientists as to what items of science should be dealt with and how, from a practical point of view, they should be depicted in books. Periodicals like *Understanding Science* may be translated into all the Indian languages.

Literature on travel should depict the life, customs, food, etc., of the people of foreign lands. It should also mention causes of the progress and downfall of these countries, narrating their history.

To crown all this is the absence of 'Art of Pictures' for children. It is difficult to draw pictures attractive enough for children. In translation, pictures can be adapted as they are from one language to another.

It is a difficult task to select worthy works for translation. Usuaally a particular theme or item has gained importance in a language. It is better not to select books which deal with common subjects. For example, biographical sketches of Buddha, Mahavira, Gandhiji, etc., and the Panchatantra stories. To translate and publish them again is a waste of time and money. It is necessary to give preference to new subjects to provide children a variety of reading facilities.

While selecting stories from diffrent languages, these may be classified as 'Folk' and 'Modern' stories It is better to select those stories which throw light on the life of the people, inspire revolution, and inculcate patriotism.

Selection and translation of poems and plays is somewhat more difficult. The meaning of idioms, phrases and proverbs in different languages is limited to the life and customs of that particular region of the language. The literature is enriched by them. Alliteration, phrases and brief proverbial sayings convey more meaning with particular reference to the life of the people. It is better to select such works and get them translated by four or five persons.

Poems meant for children between 3 and 6 years of age are nursery rhymes. Since they are about regional or local subjects, it is very difficult to translate them, literally. Better to give up such vain attempts and publish them from the original as they are. Once impressed by the poem, the child goes on reciting it when alone.

There is no difficulty in the selection of works on science and excursion. They deal with facts and it is enough if the meaning of technical terms is explained. A picture used in one language book can be used in another.

There are many nation-builders in a country. They have sacrificed their life for their nation. Biographies of such great leaders depicting how they were patriotic in their boyhood, how they struggled hard for their country, important events in their life, etc., should be translated in simple language intelligible to children for their guidance and inspiration.

We rarely find a writer who is competent enough to write for children in two languages, including his own mother-tongue. We have reputed writers of children's literature in their mother-tongue. Just as the blindmen described the elephant in their own way, these writers believe that their literature is superior to others. Sometimes such writers are not prepared to take additional trouble for translation and hence they do not care even to read children's literature in other languages. Hence it is necessary to contact the Academy of Children's Literature or organisations meant for children's welfare in different States and to gather information about children's literature and writers. A meeting of such writers may be convened from time to time to get their suggestions and plan systematically a translation programme.

A Screening Committee should be constituted comprising educationists, linguists, and writers of children's literature. The Committee should review and evaluate whether the translator has attempted to retain the original beauty of the work and its literary value, whether the translator has successfully used the common children's vocabulary and increased the beauty of the language, whether the translation is intelligible to children so as to deeply impress upon and enable them to

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experience deeply and remember the content.

There are some book publishing companies which have undertaken publication of children's literature. They include Deccan Language. Book House, Madras, India Book House Bombay, National Book Trust of India, Delhi, and Children's Book Trust. Of these, the first one is not functioning at present. India Book House is publishing books of its choice within its limited sphere in some languages. Children's Book Trust is giving preference to only Hindi and English. The National Book Trust has not been able to bring out any books in the past 4 to 5 years. So there must be some difficulties and defects in the publication and sale of children's literature. These defects are better known to the concerned publishing agencies.

What is the use of discussing publication of children's literature when no returns can be expected, one may ask? But to turn one's back from a good cause is improper. It is our duty to find out remedies for the defects in the process of publication.

The main reason for the failure of the scheme is the absence of an organisation at the Centre with the sole aim to seek children's welfare and spread children's literature. The Sahitya Academy has not spent since its inception even a single pie on children's literature. They have no plan for it. It is said that children's literature is not included in or does not come under its purview. It is quite surprising. Does not literature include children's literature also? This is a topic which needs serious attention and discussion. It is believed that literary work for children is entrusted only to NCERT, NBT, CBT, etc., and is hampered. Writers of children's literature enjoy no respect and they are therefore not taking any interest in it.

Therefore, it is the primary duty of the Government of India to constitute a national level committee at the Centre. This Committee should select, with the help and cooperation of organisations and Academies of children's literature, good writers of children's literature. It should compile a collection of literary works for children. There should be only five or six collections in a year and they should be got translated into all the Indian languages. The publication of these collections may be undertaken by the Central Committee or the Departments of Education in different States be entrusted with the publication and supply of these books to all the schools; or different publishing companies may be entrusted with the publication work and the State Governments be directed to purchase these books. It may be recalled that the Education Departments of the States are purchasing children's books worth lakhs of rupees at present. The Committee may decide which procedure should be adopted. It may be emphasised that the members constituting the committee should necessarily be writers of children's books. The Government may appoint a Director for administrative convenience.

Another suggestion is to divide the country into 4 divisions, East, West, North and South, and the publication work entrusted to voluntary organisations at Central or Capital places as follows:

Calcutta—Bengali, Urdu, Hindi.
Bangalore—Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam etc.
Bombay—Marathi, Gujarathi, Sindhi, etc.,

It is commonly complained that children's books are not sold in spite of the greater interest evinced by children in reading, because children have no money to spend on books. So the Government should order Public Libraries, as is done in advanced countries like France, Germany, Japan, Russia, America, etc., to earmark 80% to 90% of the budget for the purchase of children's books for children.

Periodical seminars and workshops be organised at the national level regarding production of children's literature, publications, pictures etc. Aid in this regard may be sought from *UNICEF.*

Book exhibitions be organised in every district to facilitate children to select their own books.

Lists of children's books and writers be published and supplied by the Central Committee at the national level.

The best translation be suitably awarded.

Financial assistance be extended for the best translation.

Books should be given as birthday presents to children. This increases the reading habit in them and also the curiosity to know the world. "Parents please purchase books for your children while purchasing books for yourselves". Such posters may be displayed.

Creative Literature: Problems and Prospects of Translation

I. PANDURANGA RAO*

Translation is a "sacred sin" which a writer of tolerable talent is obliged to commit in public interest. It is sacred because it promotes wider understanding and appreciation of human thought, sentiments and experiences. It is a sin in the sense that no translation, however good,

*Director (Hindi), Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi.

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can do full justice to the original. Even the best translation is a compromise between an attempt to be fair or faithful. It is difficult to satisfy both these conditions of an ideal translation.

This is true of almost all types of translation but more so of translations of creative literature including fiction. The basic difference between creative literature and the other form of secular literature which may be termed literature of knowledge and communication is that the former is formative while the latter is informative. The subjective factor plays a prominent role in the creative form of expression while the transmission of knowledge and *communication of facts* should be as objective as possible. This makes the translation of creative writing more difficult, delicate and demanding than the other type of translation. Mere semantic comprehension of words, phrases and expressions does not qualify a person to undertake such translation. Apart from thorough comprehension, the translator has to have an instinctive insight into the finer sentiments conveyed through refined and reverberating modes of expression. In other words, the translator too should be a potential writer in his own right. Only then can the translation serve the purpose for which it is envisaged.

Assuming that a translator has all the requisite qualities essential for translating creative literature with particular reference to fiction, he is still confronted with some intrinsic problems and unavoidable constraints in attaining perfection in his art. The most exacting problem for the translator is the natural involvement of the writer in his surroundings. While this is a virtue for a good fiction writer, it creates a problem for the translator in finding adequate equivalents for the localised words, phrases, idioms and proverbs. For instance, Holi, the most important festival in the north, is very little known in the far south. Similarly, Ugadi of Andhra Pradesh, Onam of Kerala, Avani Avattam of Tamil Nadu and Bihu of Assam are not popular in the other parts of the country. The food habits, the social customs and the family relationships widely differ in their minute details though they have very much in common viewed from the cultural angle. These variations carry with them characteristic expressions whose equivalents it is difficult to find in other languages.

Similarly, jokes and proverbs are also difficult to translate. Though most of the proverbs are almost similar in most of the Indian languages, it requires a lot of awareness and deep study to identify the exact counterparts. We do not have much reference material to help us in this regard. Bilingual glossaries of idiomatic expressions and proverbs can be of great help to the translators. Sometimes the translator is left with no alternative except to give a literal translation and make it sound like a proverb.

Social customs differ from place to place. In Andhra Pradesh, it is customary to marry sister's daughter or maternal uncle's daughter. When such a situation finds a place in a novel or a short story, the reader who may not be aware of this is likely to get puzzled. The translator cannot obviously alter the original course of events, but he has an obligation to explain the social background so that the reader feels at home and gets reconciled to the situation.

When we talk of Indian languages, we often refer to the common vocabulary based on Sanskrit which ranges from 20% to 80% in various languages. While this phenomenon substantially supports the fact that these languages are close to one another facilitating to a large extent exchange of words from one language to another, this facility sometimes becomes a disadvantage to the translator because of the semantic variaton of this so-called common vocabulary. Unless the translator is very cautious in using the right word in the right sense with due regard to the subtle shades of meaning conveyed by these words, he runs the risk of miscarrying the desired content. For instance the word 'Kalyan' meaning welfare in Hindi is often used by the common man in the South in the exclusive sense of marriage. The word 'anuvadam' means permission in Malyalam. 'Abhyantram' means objection in Telugu. 'Pramadam' means wonderful in Tamil. An intelligent translator never commits a mistake in using the native word in a foreign sense and vice versa. He has to be extremely cautious in this regard and guard himself against any slip of the pen.

Besides these linguistic and literary qualities that a fiction-translator should possess, the most important acquisition that makes a perfect translator is the basic honesty, sincerity and whole-hearted application of one's talent to the sacred duty entrusted to him. He or she should have a genuine feeling that translation is not a job but a worship of humanity in that it brings humanity closer and closer by bridging the gulf between isolated peaks and breaking the artificial barriers of language, religion, caste and community.

The translator, however perfect and idealistic he may be, cannot by himself achieve the desired end. He needs organisational support. Translation has assumed new dimensions and its role in the present-day world has become so important and significant that we cannot think of any progress without the help of translation. In a multilingual country like ours where a discerning eye can easily visualise basic unity

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in spite of its apparent diversity, it is translation that enables the average man to realise this unity and cultivate an integrated approach to our national life.

It is gratifying to note that after India became politically independent, the need to establish this basic unity through exchange of thought available in our languages and literature has been felt more and more. As a result, institutions like National Book Trust and Sahitya Akademies have taken up this cause and have done commendable work during the past three or four decades. But the National Book Trust has confined itself to the Indian languages as far as the Aadan Pradan and Antara Bharati series are concerned. As far as possible the outstanding work in an Indian language is got translated into other Indian languages directly. Where a suitable translator is not available for translating a work from one Indian language into the other, it is generally translated into Hindi to start with and, on the basis of the Hindi translation, other language versions are got prepared. This is however not an ideal situation but in the existing conditions there is no alternative. The role of Hindi as an effective link among Indian languages no doubt gets strengthened in the process.

There is a solution to this problem. If the State Governments or State Sahitya Akademies can identify some potential translators with a flair for learning languages other than their mother-tongue, a training programme can be sponsored by official or non-official organisations not only in language learning but also in the art of translation. There should be sufficient incentives for such youngsters. Language graduates fresh from the university can be inducted into such a programme provided they can be assured of their career prospects after the completion of the course. This is however a long-term plan.

The immediate problem of identifying competent translators will have to be tackled in a traditional and organisational way. Seminars and workshops may help us in identifying talent in this field. Bilingual experts in Hindi and another Indian language are available almost in all the States. But persons knowing Telugu and Punjabi, Gujarati and Tamil, Oriya and Kannada and other similar combinations are very rare. Until such persons are available for undertaking direct translation from one of these remote languages into the other, Hindi has to serve as an intermediate medium. This being the case, it is highly essential to ensure that the Hindi version which happens to be the master copy and the basis for other language versions is a model rendering in all respects.

Another problem connected with the selection of right type of people for translation is that it is always desirable to entrust translation to a native speaker of the language unless the translator has attained equal proficiency in the other language. But in practice this is not always done—particularly in case of translations in Hindi. Very often, a non-Hindi speaking writer does the translation—both from Hindi into his mother-tongue and also from his mother-tongue into Hindi. The situation can change for the better only when Hindi writers take to the study of other Indian languages.

The selection of right type of material for translation is also equally important. Translation of all creative writing falls broadly under two categories—sponsored and spontaneous. When the writer undertakes translation of a novel or a story on his own, it is a spontaneous choice and is normally expected to be the best though the subjective element cannot be ruled out. Sometimes the author selects his own work for translation and approaches a friend for favour. This is a semi-sponsored proposal. But where institutions dedicated to the cause of national integration take up the task of selecting the right type of literature for translation, the selection is expected to be reasonably objective. Some works attain national and international importance as a result of their recognition in the form of of literary awards. The literary works awarded by Bharatiya Jnanpith, Sahitya Akademies and State Governments naturally attract the attention of the average reader. It is worth while to have these works translated into other Indian languages according to a planned and phased programme.

Of all forms of literary expression, the short story or the novel is perhaps the most popular one today catching the attention of the common man. Even in the remote past, stories have been the centre of attraction for people of all age-groups ranging from the old man and woman of the house to the baby in the craddle. There is a natural tendency among all sections of society to have a photo-synthetic view of the emotional world in which they live. The wider the spectrum, the greater the enlightenment through entertainment. Translation goes a long way to widen this spectrum. It removes the barrier of language and enables the individual to have an insight into the human mind vibrating almost in corresponding wavelengths.

As in the field of creative literature, so also in the day-to-day life of the present-day world, translation has become almost an integral and inevitable part of our being and becoming. Sometimes we feel inclined to believe that this is an era of translation. Any discussion on the 'Role of Translation in the Present Era' therefore presupposes the acceptance of this well-founded belief.

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Translation is the Veda of our times. The word 'Anuveda' is 'perhaps a more appropriate term for translation today. It is the Veda of our atomic age as well as of the atomic age in the past.

———

Translation of Poetry

J.P. DAS

What is translation ? on a platter
A poet's pale and glaring head
A parrot's screech, a monkey's chatter
And profanation of the dead
—Vladimir Nabokov

Translation is a much-maligned subject. Marx equated the translator with the thief and the seller who were found necessary for the 19th century European colonial enterprise. The translator has been called a traitor and a bustling busybody. He has never been taken kindly.

It is worse when it comes to translation of poetry. Victor Hugo wondered if poetry could at all be translated. 'A translation in verse seems to me something absurd, impossible'. Robert Frost thought that poetry was something which got left out in translation.

However, no one denies the service translations have done to reach good literature to a wider audience across linguistic boundaries. The world would have been so much the loser if translators would not have brought great literature of different lands to readers speaking a different tongue. The need for translations is all the more important in India where many languages prevail, each rich in its own heritage, and one can know what is happening in the literary field elsewhere in the country only by means of translation. It is in this context that we have to study the translation of poetry, and its complexities and problems.

Translation of poetry, by the very nature of the work involved, is more difficult and complex than translation of prose. All poetry does not express emotion, sensibility or awareness of truth. Sometimes poetry can be simply an unusual juxtaposition of words or imagery. A poet might sometimes manipulate words as a painter uses daubs of paint, interesting not for their meaning, but for their coloration. Translation in such cases would be most difficult.

Translating modern poetry into another language is easier than a similar exercise in ancient or medieval poetry. While translating modern poetry, fidelity to the original is the primary aim, making some allowance for cultural and linguistic adjustments. However, in translating medieval and ancient texts, the translator, being separated in time and space from the original, has a greater problem.

Many of our ancient Sanskrit poetic works had been translated into European languages in the 19th century and had helped the world at large to appreciate the rich literary heritage that India had. In the modern phase, however, the classic translation is Tagore's own rendering of his GITANJALI which won him the Nobel prize in 1913. Since then many other authors have been translated from various Indian languages into English.

At this point one must raise the question of suitability of the English language for translating Indian works. It is no doubt true that English translations have made it possible for many Indian books to be known not only outside India, but inside the country as well among people speaking a different language. English has also served as the link language through which one Indian language has been translated into another. This need has arisen because there are not many translators who know two languages well enough to translate one into the other without having to go through a third language (like English), thereby making the translation second or third removed from the original.

Here we come to the question of what is a good translation. Should a translation be faithful or beautiful? In case of translation of poetry, should it have prosaic literalness or uninhibited freedom? Should it be a so-called transcreation, where the translator must edit, reconcile and transmute? Should it be a clear gloss translation where the reader is looking at the original without being aware of the gloss, i.e., the translation? Or, should be the translation be absolutely true to the original and act as a kind of lens the original must be scrutinised when necessary?

In India we have a good body of translation of poetry of different regional languages into English, thanks to some Indian publishers and English journals. The same, however, cannot be said of translations into Hindi, though one would have supposed that Hindi would have served better for such translations as also for being a clearing house for rendering from one Indian language into another. This is a sphere in which Hindi language publishers and institutions like NBT, Sahitya Akademi and ICCR have a role to play.

There is also a need for good translations of poetry from one language into another. There are several problems inherent in this. We need to have professional translators having a command of both languages, as also inter-lingual dictionaries and reference books in allusions, idioms and proverbs on different languages. This is all thie more important since in different Indian languages, even Sanskrit

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words connote different meanings. To cite an instance, the word *aparyapt* in Sanskrit and Hindi means inadequate or insufficient; in Oriya usage, the word means the exact opposite : ample, enough and unlimited!

It is rather unfortunate that Indian readers are able to have access to Western poetry through English originals or translations, but are denied knowledge of poetry in Indian languages. In a multi-lingual country like ours, where it is not possible to savour the writing of Indian poets in their original language, translation would seem to be a must. Let it be conceded that all poetry is not lost in translation. It may even be added that in a translation, poetry may get a freshness and become a new writing.

Translation of Classics

G. GOPINATHAN*

Students of Indian literature often raise the question why, even though a considerable amount of translational activity went on within Sanskrit and other Indian languages, no theory of transation was ever developed in early or medieval India. The answer lies in the circumstances that literary transaltion was never considered something different in kind from original creative activity. To describe this kind of translational activity within Indian languages, Sujit Mukherjee has coined the designation 'new writing'. In his essay "Translation as New Writing" he comments :...."until the advent of Western literature in this country, we always regarded translation as new writing. This can be demonstrated most easily in the career of the Mahabharata and the Ramayana in various Indian languages. The Pampabharata or the Pandava Vijaya, for example, are complete and self-contained literary works, irrespective of their sources. But when literary historians tell us that Pampa 'wrote' the Mahabharata in Kannada or that Kashiram Das 'wrote' the same in Bangala, we are suddenly made aware that writing in this context is not divorced from the act of original composition".[1]

In actuality, there were three types of transational activity in early and medieval India. The first consisted of Sanskrit translations of the Prakrit portions in the dialogues in Sanskrit dramas, which were provided by the poet-playwright himself, along with the original. These translations were at the same time faithful, word-for-word yet also creative. *Chayas* or Shadow translations of this kind were possible in closely allied languages such as Sanskrit and Pali.

The second type of 'translation' was to be found in the commentaries made by Sanskrit scholars on the works of their predecessors. Commentaries of this kind were sometimes highly personal, very often deviating widely from the original. Cakyar, a humorous character in the Sanskrit dramatic style of Kutiyattam, followed this style on the stage, and it can still be seen in Kutiyattam and Cakyar Kuthu performances in which the *cakyar*, speaking in an elaborate style in Malayalam, provides a commentary on the original Sanskrit poem.

The third type of activity comprised the rendering of the ancient Indian classics into the vernaculars during the medieval period. These renderings were for the most part adaptations with additions or omissions such as the rendering poet felt necessary or appropriate. The Ramayanas of the Jaina poets, for instance, were filled with Jaina philosophy, and that of Tulasidas with devotional elements, while that of Ezuthachan abounds in philosophical and moral teachings. The poet Surdas, asked by his guru, Vallabhacharya, to sing the *lilas* of Lord Krishna based on the *Bhagavata*, composed lyrical pieces on the episodes in the *Bhagavata* which bear only a remote relationship with the original. Each in its own way, all these were recreations made after the originals, had been completely assimilated into the recreator's personality.

The notion that literary translation can be faithful came, as Sujit Mukherjee has pointed out, from the West, "perhaps in the wake of the Bible and the need felt by Christian missionaries to have it translated into different Indian languages". "We have hesitated", he goes on to say, "until recent times to translate our own scriptures; who but another God would presume to translate the word of God?".[2] The first Indian writer who so presumed was probably Ram Mohan Roy (1774—1833), who in 1815 translated two *Vedanta* treatises into modern Bengali, and later the Upanishads.[3] Without doubt the example of the translation of the Vedas and other scriptures into Western languages by Max Muller and others served to provide such Indian writers with the daring to present an authentic translation of such sacred originals.

Though the idea that a faithful rendering of the original is possible was introduced by Bible translators and Western Indologists, the mode of translation used for poetry has remained that of "transcreation". One of the main reasons for this is the impact of Rabindranath Tagore early in this century. Tagore's ren-

*Professor and Head of Department of Hindi, Calicut University.

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dering of his own poems from Bengali into English was in large part, a transcreation rather than a true translation, as was also his version of Kabir's verse in his *One Hundred Poems of Kabir* (1912). His method of transcreation consisted in a kind of recreation of the mood and music of the original, maintaining the internal rhythm and emotion of the blank verse at the cost of other elements. As scholars have often pointed out, in doing so he omitted a number of poems from the Bengali *Gitanjali*, and deviated from those originals he retained in many ways. It is quite probable that while translating he kept what is felt to be the likings and taste of Western readers in mind.

Romantic poets in the Indian languages similarly adapted, imitated, and interpreted the ideas of Western romantic poets such as Shelley, Keats, and Byron, not as translation but as a kind of transcreation or 'new writing'. Yet even when they were clearly translating, the atmosphere was usually so much changed that only the spirit was transferred. A good example is Kamta Prasad Guru's translation into Hindi of Grey's *Elegy, Written in a Country Churchyard*, in which English heroes are replaced by Indian:

Some village *Hampden*, that with dauntless breast
The little tyrant of his fields withstood;
Some mute inglorious *Milton* here may rest,
Some *Cromwell* guiltless of his country's blood.
Koyi *Ayodhyanath* Sadrsya Nijesupasi;
Sivaprasad Sam Koyi des—adhikar—udasi;
In me hote vir koyi *Rana Pratap* Sam;
Athava Koyi *Magansinh* hi se bhupadham.[4]

Translation of poetry in general, and of early Indian poetry in particular, is often a process of interpretation, and it is here that the mode of transcreation is needed: Gokak rightly separates translations of ancient Indian literature from translations of modern Indian literature, because the translator's function is quite different in either case. The former requires a certain degree of interpretation and adaptation of meaning, to accommodate which some latitude in translation becomes inevitable. Such translation can be presented along with an editorial explanation so that the reader is forewarned not to expect literal rendering.[5]

P. Lal has been an ardent practitioner of transcreation in his rendering of early texts (and indeed even of Premchand's modern Hindi short stories) into English. According to him, the translator of early texts must "edit, reconcile, and transmute". To quote Sujit Mukherjee once more, "Lal's practice mingles with large measures of interpretation in his endeavour to modernise an ancient text. It is the duty as well as the privilege of every generation to attempt at coming to terms in its own terms with classical literature".[6]

Shri Aurobindo, in his book *Essays on Gita*, points out that in great works such as the *Gita* there are two elements: one is temporal and perishable, the other eternal and belonging to all ages and all nations. Hence old translations age, and it becomes necessary for these great works to be interpreted in the contemporary idiom if the eternal element in the message is to be communicated with the same force.[7]

In post-independence India, a change in the concept of poetry translation has come about with the establishment of Sahitya Akademi and the National Book Trust. These two agencies, responsible for a large number of translations, have laid down specific principles of authenticity in translation. As a result, their translations are now published together with a transliteration of the original. These translations are in most cases in prose, or at most in a kind of rhythmic prose. The general aim is to retain the meanings and emotions of the original, even at the expense of music, metre, and the like. This new trend has enabled the translators, and institutions like Jnanpith, to bring out authentic translations of award-winning contemporary poets. In a new translation of the Russian poet Mykovski into Hindi,[8] Madanlal Madhu goes a step further, attempting to join semantic authenticity with poetic beauty. Translations such as these indicate that an age of true translations is dawning in India.

In regard to the translation of drama and fiction, the various stages are quite clear. Modern Indian drama developed mainly by means of adaptations and imitations of Shakespeare's plays. From the time of Bharatendu Harishchandra's Indianized adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice* as *Durlabh Bandhu* in 1880 to Rangey Raghav's and Bacchan's first true translations of Shakespeare into Hindi after 1950, writers and dramatists have been translating and imitating Shakespeare in a variety of ways. The plays were first translated into Bengali, and these Bengali versions were then translated into Hindi and other languages. The Parsi theatre popularized these dramas throughout the country, until gradually new historical plays in the Shakespearian manner such as those by Dwijendralal Roy were written. These too were first written in Bengali, to be translated into Hindi and other languages. Thus, through translations and imitations, modern Indian drama in its true sense came into existence. Similarly, social drama was marked at first by translations of Galsworthy and Ibsen,

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afterwards by independent plays in the same manner.

With the emergence of the new dramatic literature in India after independence, the need was felt for more authentic translation of plays. The National School of Drama in New Delhi and the other new theatres have contributed greatly to this new sensibility for drama translation, both between Indian languages and from other languages. These new, authentic translations have paved the way for the emergence of a truly national theatre in India. At the same time, this new theatrical awareness has led contemporary dramatists to seek back for their own traditional dramatic forms.

The novel is in India a quite recent literary genre, tracing back no further than the late nineteenth century. The first Indian novels were either adaptations or imitations of English novels. Bengali writers such as Bankimchandra and Pyarilal Mukhopadhyaya wrote original novels on the model of English novels and later writers in other languages—Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, and the like—imitated them. Writing on the development of the novel in Hindi, R. S. McGregor noted that "translation of independent Bengali novels had begun by about 1880, and was an important influence in acclimatizing the novel in Hindi as a form."[9] The novels of Scott were not much translated into Indian languages, but they were the main source of imitation and inspiration for the historical novels, and their influence can be seen over a long period. P.A.S. Van Limburg Brouwer's Dutch novel *Akbar* was translated into Malayalam (from the English version in 1894) and this translation introduced the genre of the historical novel into Malayalam literature, providing a model for original novels in the language. The first social novel in Malayalam, *Indulekha*, was reportedly similarly based on Benjamin Disraeli's *Henrietta Temple* (1836). In his introduction to *Indulekha*, the author describes how he came to write the novel:

I began to read English novels extensively after the end of 1886..I attempted to convey to my friends in Malayalam the gist of the story contained in some of the novels I had read..At last it so happened that one of the individuals was greatly taken with Lord Beaconsfield's *Henrietta Temple*, and the taste then acquired for listening to novels, orally, gradually developed into a passion.[10]

It should be noted that this late nineteenth-century novel in Malayalam was able to effect sweeping social changes in Kerala. Twentieth-century Malayalam novels were greatly influenced by the translation of Hugo's *Les Miserables* which the Malayalam poet Nalappadan made from the English version. The social novels of the Russians were likewise translated and absorbed into Indian regional literatures. Gorky's *Mother* was translated into Hindi (by Chavinath Panday) as early as 1929. The first Indian versions of such novels were always made via the English, and the translators felt at liberty to introduce whatever changes they felt right. It was these novels which served as models for the realistic novels which began appearing in India after the first world war.

The present trend is for novels, whether they are being translated from one Indian language into another or from a foreign tongue, to be rendered more authentically and faithfully. Translations sponsored by Sahitya Akademy and the National Book Trust are true translations, not adaptations. As a result, the translation of novels is gradually attaining a high scholarly and artistic level.

New translations of classics and many translations of the same work in the same language are considered to be necessary. In the various translations of the same book, clarity and artistic excellence can be gained. This can be known, for example, by a comparison of the translation of the Rubayiyat by Hindi poets like Kesav Prasad Pathak, Mythili Saran Gupta, Sumitranandan Pant and Bacchan in which older translations have given inspiration to the new translators to present the text in a more authentic and effective manner. Criticism of the older translations of great books has also contributed to new translations by the translators who take up the challenge. In different periods, the different meaning and message of the great works become important.

Translations of the Bhagavat Gita by freedom fighters like Tilak and Gandhi are politically motivated, but the translations of other contemporary philosophers and poets have a different connotation to the contemporary society. The Russian poet and critic Lev Ozerov says that the need for new translation of literary classics arises because of new historical and literary experiences.[11] As the old view of a completely new creation is gradually replaced by the modern view which gives importance to the harmony between the aesthetic ideas and the actual depiction of life, translation of classics in India will gain authenticity and artistic perfection in the years to come. A major part in the development of the criteria of authenticity and objectivity in translation was played by the translations of the autobiographies written by the great national heroes into the regional languages, notably by the autobiographies of Mahatma Gandhi (1929) and Jawaharlal Nehru. As a result of the profession of the need for translations of various kinds, the possibilities of translating as a profosraes are also becoming brighter within the various Indian languages.

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The publication of journals such as *Anuvad* (Translation) and *JISTA* and the introduction of translation as a subject for university studies have helped to give translation a more academic orientation in recent years. And with the publication of books such as Bholanath Tiwari's *Anuvad Vigyan* (The Science of Translation) and of various monographs and articles reporting linguistic and literary research in the field of translation studies, a contribution is now also being made in India to the scholarly study of both the theory and the practice of translation.

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Translation of Technical Books

N. R. CHENDUR

I would like to divide technical books into two categories: (1) for the purpose of education; (2) for the purpose of information. In my opinion translation of technical books for colleges or higher studies is a waste of time and energy and opportunity. We can have nice translations of Humanities and Social Sciences but even in that area when we come to subjects like Jurisprudence or Archaeology, we shall have many problems to encounter in allocating the exact word in correct connotation.

For technical knowledge, besides a wealth of vocabulary, exactitude—the correct, appropriate, indubitable meaning of the term—is essential. That is not possible by mere coining or translation. Technical terms have a clear-cut precise meaning. Translated into some other language they might assume a ghost appearance. Those original names acquire a sanctity of their own with the passage of time and results of a laborious experimental research. For instance, abbreviated terms such as RADAR for Radio Detecting and Ranging, LASER for Light-Amplified Self-Excited Radiation are universally accepted terminology but they lack their essential meaning bereft of the English original.

You will pardon me for sharing with you some of the problems I faced when more than 25 years ago I undertook a translation of 'Report on the Atom' by Gordon Dean, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of the United States of America, who had just then resigned from his post, due to a difference of opinion with the establishment. My first problem was whether to describe ATOM as ANU or PARAMANU. ANU means molecule and PARAMANU atom.

When I consulted a learned friend of mine, he said ANU was more proper than PARAMANU—as the latter has a theological significance. Words like Atomic Fission, Chain Reaction, Chemical Chain Reaction, Chemical Fire, Atomic Fire etc. I translated keeping the English terms in brackets.

The English language has enriched itself by adopting technical terms from Greek and Latin. It has been an uninterrupted growth and development from the Renaissance to the Industrial Age. We had Sanskrit but that could serve mostly Literature and Arts and Philosophy. The requirements of the post-Industrial Revolution are entirely different and the giant strides of Science and Technology could be comprehended only through an international language but not a classical one.

In my opinion, translation of technical books intended only for the general reader should be encouraged and the translator must bring forth a faithful translation or, shall we say, a transcreation of the original author from the 'source' language to the 'target' one. It is of the utmost importance to transfer the concepts and word-images in their appropriateness. For imparting higher knowledge we should go in only for an international language and in our case that is English. It is a a legacy to be well-kept and well-preserved. Language chauvinism results in retardation of higher scientific knowledge and technology.

Prior to Independence, our technical education was related to the needs of railways, roads, posts and telegraphs, bridges, buildings, irrigation channels, power generation etc but today it is not that simple. We have to catch up with the rest of the developed countries. Scientists and Technical men have made English a universal language. Terms and expressions accepted and adopted for international use cannot be translated. They must be left intact as they are. So, efforts in translating and publishing books on higher scientific knowledge and technology will turn out to be a colossal waste. But technical books for laymen are most welcome—either for the joy of knowledge or for acquiring different skills.

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Point Counter-Point

In *Dateline*, dated Sunday, February, 3-9, 1985, M. J. Akbar, commenting on publishers, has said: "The publishers, it often seems to me, show far more dedication to books than authors. The writer gets cash in the bank, liquor in his hand and, most of all, enormous doses of massage to his ever-expanding ego. The publisher gets the dirty work—from proofs to invoices to distribution to collection and, on top of it, treating the author like a spoilt brat."

Narendra Kumar, Managing Director, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, in a rejoinder to M.J. Akbar's brief write-up says:

"It is easier to swim with the current, run down the often-maligned publishing community. Therefore, your bold initiative in presenting an objective assessment of the actual position is to be highly appreciated.

"Publishers, as rightly pointed out by you, are indeed a devoted lot who have chosen their profession more out of commitment than the lure of making quick profits. Most people are not even aware that, in India, financial institutions do not offer credit facilities to the publishing industry since books are not considered sufficient guarantee for the security of their loans. Publishers have, thus, to fall back entirely upon their personal resources for all their activities.

"Further, the state enjoys monopoly over the publication of textbooks for government-run schools throughout the country. This constitutes almost 70 per cent of the total publishing activity in India and accounts for a business of over Rs. 1,000 crores. (In fact, 85 per cent of publishing is in the hands of the state.) This has deprived publishers of a strong and stable financial base. As a result, publishers unlike their counterparts in other democratic countries, are generally not in a position to undertake academic publishing which, quite often, is not economically viable but is necessary to fullfil social obligations and project India's great cultural heritage in other parts of the world.

"The phenomenal rise in the prices of paper during the last decade has dealt a crippling blow to the publishing industry. Since paper accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the cost of production of books, the abnormal increase in the cost of paper has pushed up prices of books beyond the reach of averaage readers. The number of potential buyers, too, has unfortunately not increased because of various factors including low literacy rate, general lack of reading habit and progressive decrease of purchasing power in the country. Add to that, the peculiar nature of our marketing operations, slow-moving nature of our product, and the consequent uncertainty and irregularity of returns, and the picture of a publisher's plight is complete.

"It would be relevant to add that it goes to the abiding credit of Indian publishers that the prices of books have not increased in league with the rising costs of raw materials. Profit margin of publishers has thus correspondingly decreased. Unmindful of this situation and other factors mentioned above, publishers continue to carry on their vocation with dedication and commitment to the higher cause of a reading society.

"Notwithstanding all this, if some persons, out of ignorance or prejudice, continue maligning publishers, I believe they are being far more sinned against than sinning!"

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NEW BOOKS FROM USSR

WORLD WAR II: DECISIVE BATTLES OF THE SOVIET ARMY pp. 540, Rs. 12.00

This book is a military historical sketch that describes the decisive battles and engagements of the Soviet Army in World War II (1941-1945). On the basis of documents, historical research and recollections of war participants it retraces the course of warfare on the Soviet-German front and during the campaign in the Far East.

Much space is given to the work done by Front (army) commanders and their HQs, as well as to the GHQ Supreme Command in preparing and carrying out various operations. The results of the battles are analysed. The book is written in popular language and is intended for the general reader.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM pp. 280, Rs. 7.00

This book gives a popular account of the dialectical-materialist understanding of nature, man and society. Philosophical categories and notions are illustrated with simple and graphic examples from scientific cognition and social life.

ON THE "MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY" OF MARX AND ENGELS pp. 110. Rs. 2.00

The author gives a picture of social life at the time the Manifesto of the Communist Party was written, sets forth in brief its ideas and shows its significance for the contemporary epoch.

THE COMING WORLD ORDER pp. 295, Rs. 7.25

The book provides a detailed analysis of the objective laws governing the world revolutionary process and shows the interconnection and interconditionality of the struggle for peace and detente, on the one hand, and socialist movements on the other. The author describes the interests determining governmental policies and political struggles, and the global and individual problems which give rise to international conflicts. Also of interest are his reflections on the impact of the world revolutionary process and the STR on the eve of the third millennium.

SUBJECT, OBJECT, COGNITION pp. 290, Rs. 7.00

Philosophically generalising problems of the methodology of science, psychology of cognition, psycholinguistics and the history of science, V.A. Lektrosky, Doctor of Science (Philosophy), gives a comprehensive analysis of the subject-object relationship of cognition, investigates various forms and types of correlation between objective-practical and cognitive activity, the interrelationship between self-consciousness and cognition, the components of the system of knowledge and the problem of its substantiation and development. The author also discusses a number of unresolved topical philosophical and methodological problems and provides criticism of pre-Marxian and non-Marxian approaches to the concept of cognitive relation.

TOWARDS SOCIAL HOMOGENEITY pp. 255, Rs. 4.75

This book by M. Rutkevich, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, is devoted to topical problems related to the development of social relations in the USSR. Using the latest factual material, the author shows the dynamics of the development of socio-class relations and changes in the political, socio-demographic and occupational structure of society. The book tells about the development of the Soviet people as a new social and international community. The author refutes anti-Soviet ideological speculations on the problems under consideration.

MAN AND MAN'S WORLD pp. 295, Rs. 15.60

This monograph deals with a number of problems which rather clearly reveal the socio-historical and active-practical essence of man and his attitude to the world. In so far as world outlooks are concerned, the purpose of this philosophic survey is to outline the active foundation and the "practical-spiritual" forms of unity between man and the world, to reveal universal connections which determine the means of human existence, as much as the way in which the world exists for man. Such is the cardinal task of a Weltanschauung synthesis of the conceptual notions of man and the world, a synthesis which permits establishing chracteristics of both.

"THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION AND THE RENEGADE KAUTSKY" pp. 120, Rs. 1.40

Focusing on Lenin's work The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky, Vladimir Gavrilov recreates the historical background against which it was written, outlines its contents and shows its role in combating present-day opportunistic trends.

THE COMINTERN AND THE EAST (Strategy and Tactics) pp. 300, Rs. 7.50.

This monograph by a Soviet historian reconstructs the broad scope of the Communist International's activities in the East and analyses anti-imperialist movements in the

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colonial and dependent countries of Asia and their role in the world revolutionary process. It stresses the Communist International in outlining a correct policy line for the Eastern Communist Parties in accordance with the tasks of the national-liberation struggle. It levels devastating and well-argued criticism at the slanderous inventions of anti-communists.

O. Havrilyuk

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE IN A SOCIALIST SOCIETY pp. 140, Rs. 2.75

This book reveals the essence of freedom of conscience, proving its limitations under conditions of bourgeois society. Also shown is the contribution made by V. I. Lenin to the development of the fundamental principles of socialist freedom of conscience. Much attention is given to elucidating the varied activities of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government at all stages of socialist construction aimed at implementing the Leninist principles of freedom of conscience.

Vladimir Nikolayev

THE AMERICANS pp. 270, Rs. 5.25

V. Nikolayev, a writer on international affairs, highlights the way of life and customs of Americans, as well as some moral aspects of what is going on in American society. The book shows the stratagems of the US military-industrial complex, its power and impact on the everyday life of the multinational American people. The US legal system and civil rights, true and sham, also come into focus.

THE PALESTINE QUESTION pp. 255, Rs. 5.00

This book is a collection of major documents adopted by the United Nations and other international organisations and conferences on the Palestinian question and the related Middle East issues.

Presented chronologically, these documents reflect the main stages of the acute international conflict in the Middle East.

Apart from resolutions condemning Israel's territorial expansionism and acts of genocide against the Palestinian people, the book features numerous documents demonstrating the growing international recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

THE PALESTINE PROBLEM: AGGRESSION, RESISTANCE WAYS OF SETTLEMENT pp. 295, Rs. 6.00

The Palestinian problem is one of the most acute and explosive in the world today. Its main aspects are discussed in the present collection. The articles deal with the past of the Palestinians, the causes of their tragedy, which emerged as a result of the Israeli aggressive actions supported by the US imperialist circles.

The contributors to the collection draw on extensive material, emphasise the just nature of the struggle waged by the Palestinians for their national self-determination, show the real ways towards the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East. The collection reveals the principled and consistent policy of the Soviet Union in support of the interests of the Palestinian people.

S. Losev and Y. Tyssovsky

THE MIDDLE EAST: OIL POLICY pp. 245, Rs. 4.50

The two Soviet journalists specialising in foreign-policy issues have written this monograph to examine the system of economic enslavement of the Middle East by Western oil monopolies and its disintegration brought about by the national-liberation movement. The authors analyse the policy of plundering the national wealth of Middle Eastern countries and Iran, by the schemes of imperialist states, primarily the USA, aimed at retaining control of this region at any cost.

CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF JUSTICE IN THE USSR pp. 250, Rs. 5.00

The collection deals with theoretical studies of the constitutional law, prompted by the provisions on the court of law and the legal procedure formalised by the 1977 Constitution. A team of Soviet jurists analyses the contents of these provisions governing the activities of courts, principles of administration of justice, their interconnection and interdependence and their reflection in Soviet law. The collection contains five sections: "Justice as the Object of Constitutional Regulation", "The Courts in the System of Soviet State Bodies", "Justice and the Law", "Justice and the People", "Justice and the Individual".

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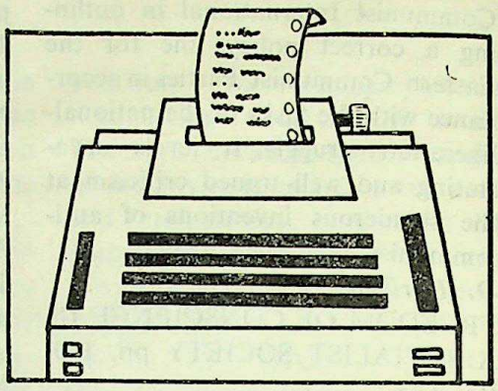

NEWS AND EVENTS

'MASTI' GIVEN JNANPITH AWARD

The Bharatiya Jnanpith Award was presented to the celebrated Kannada author, Dr Masti Venkatesha Iyengar, in Bangalore on April 13. A galaxy of dignitaries, headed by the Vice-President, Mr R. Venkataraman, led a host of speakers who wished the 94-year-old "Masti," as he is popularly known, many more years of creative writing.

Dr Iyengar, who has to his credit nearly 100 books, including fiction, drama, and biography, is the fourth Kannada author to receive the Jnanpith award, marking a peak in Kannada literary development. The previous recipients were Dr K.V Puttappa, Dr K. Shivarama Karanth and the late Dr Dattatreya Ramachandra Bendre.

This was the first time that the Jnanpith award presentation ceremony was held outside Delhi.

The award consisted of a citation, a bronze statue of Vagdevi, the goddess of learning, and a cash prize of Rs. 1,50,000. "Masti" announced that he would create two trusts with the award money, one of Rs. 1,00,000 for the promotion of publishing Kannada works and another of Rs. 50,000 for the publication of his books and their sale at a subsidised price.

In presenting the award, the Vice-President said that Dr Iyengar stood for ancient wisdom as reflected in the Rig Veda, Ramayana and Mahabharata. He was sure that "Masti's" works would live as long as Valmiki's Ramayana.

An ovation was given to "Masti" as he rose to give his acceptance speech. According to him, literature was to show the way out of seeming opposites, watch humanity's steps and help in choosing good men for running the administration. Indian literature, with its beginnings in the Vedas and Upanishads and the great works of Valmiki, Vyasa and Kalidasa, was in an excellent position to fulfil this function of literature.

After winning freedom, the country was in a hurry to be "civilised"—as understood in the West—and had unfortunately made a number of mistakes. The worst of these was the neglect of religion and dismissal of the idea of God. Among the other errors, "We made plans for material welfare, but none for spiritual well-being". The unsophisticated population could be led

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to live a good life only if the abstract was given a concrete form and called God and religion.

The Indian tradition, Dr. Iyengar remarked, saw no need for a struggle between capitalism and communism. The instinct to earn must be encouraged. It made a society produce all it could. The instinct to help a fellow being in want should be encouraged. It made available to society what was produced.

Dr Iyengar took up cudgels against the promotion of lust in literature, theatre, cinema and T.V. programmes, "All the time we forget that the business of art is not to pander to low taste but to improve the taste".

21 AWARDS FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Twenty-one awards for the best children's books and manuscripts in Indian languages and English were announced by the National Council of Educational Research and Training in New Delhi on March 24.

Each award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 and a certificate. The books selected are in two categories, meant for children in the 5-8 and 9-15 age groups. Only books published during 1980, 1981 and 1982 were considered.

The award-winning authors are: Assamese—Dr. Nagen Dutta; Bengali—Mr Sisir Kumar Majumdar; English—Mr R.K. Murthi and Mr Abhijit Sen Gupta; Gujarati—Mr Raman Lal Soni; Hindi—Mr Nirankar Dev Sevak, Dr Ram Sarup Vashisht and Mr Champa Lal Ranka; Kannada—Rasika Puthiage (Mr P.S. Acharya); Malayalam—Mr Sippy Pallipuram and Mr K.S. Vishwambar Das; Marathi—Mr Vasant Bapat; Sindhi—Mr Vasdev Nirmal and Mrs P.S. Rohra; Sanskrit—Miss Pramila J. Parekh; Tamil—Mr Kundarakkudian and Mr T.V. Sivasubramaniam; Telugu—Mrs D. Sujatha Devi and Urdu—Mr S.G. Haidar.

ASAN PRIZE FOR KAMALA DAS

Noted Indo-Anglian poetess, Kamala Das, has been selected for the Asan Memorial World Prize for literature this year. This was announced in Trivandrum on April 15 by Asan Memorial Association President M. Sridharan.

MOONIS RAZA DELHI V-C

Prof. Moonis Raza of Jawaharlal Nehru University has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Universit . Prof. Raza, 60, has been associated in various capacities with the BHU, Kashmir University and the National Institute for Education, Planning and Administration.

CALCUTTA BOOK FAIR 1986

The next Calcutta Book Fair will be held from January 29 to February, 9, 1986. There will also be a Book Bazar from September 29 to October 6, 1985. Those interested in participating in these exhibitions may write to Mr B.K. Dhur, 5A, Bhawani Dutta Lane, Calcutta-700073.

MOSCOW BOOK FAIR

The National Book Trust, A-5, Green Park, New Delhi-110016, have received terms and application forms for the Moscow Book Fair to be held from September 10 to 16, 1985. Members desirous of participating in it can obtain them from the Trust. Although the last date for entry was March 20, 1985, the Trust has requested the organisers to extend it to April 30.

STANFORD PUBLISHING COURSE

Applications are now being accepted for the eighth annual Stanford Publishing Course, to be held at Stanford from July 8-20, 1985. Fifty nationally prominent publishing professionals and distinguished Stanford faculty will give an in-depth overview of book and magazine publishing to 150 national and international participants. Editors, publishers, art directors, sales executives, production managers, corporate communicators, authors, and others will concentrate on either book or magazine publishing. General and specialized seminars will be held daily on editing, design, production, new technology, marketing, sales, advertising, and finance.

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SELLING INTO U.S. MARKET

An IPN (Internationl Publishing Newsletter) seminar is scheduled just prior to American Booksellers' San Francisco convention on May 24, 1985, to provide foreign publishers with a timely, comprehensive review on book-selling in North America today. ABA brings together 15,000 plus retailers, wholesalers, distributors and publishing executives from across the country and around the world. The IPN seminar will provide an intensive short course on what you will be hearing—questions people will be asking—and straight basic guidance on problems you will face and course of action involved in selling into the U.S. market.

GUIDE TO SPANISH BOOKS

The third edition of *LIBROS EN VENT*, the record of books in print and currently for sale in the Spanish language throughout the world, will be published on August 15, 1985, by Melcher Ediciones in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This third edition updates the second edition published in 1974 by Turner Ediciones in Buenos Aires, which was, in turn, an updating of the first edition published in 1964 by R.R. Bowker, New York. The new *LEV* is expected to contain more than 120,000 titles from over 2,500 publishers in more than 22 countries.

LONDON BOOK FAIR

The four-day London Book Fair, which opened on April 10, was widely attended by publishers from all over the world. The fair organisers were very much encouraged by the response from Indian publishers.

1985 *BOOK FAIRS*

1985 *OVERSEAS*

MAY 3—6, Indonesian Book Fair.....Jakarta
MAY 5—10, Jerusalem Book Fair.....Israel
MAY 9—12, Art Book Fair.....Florence
MAY 10—12, Swedish International Book Fair.....Stockholm
MAY 13—17, IBF Congress .....Toronto
MAY 22—27, Warsaw Book Fair.....Poland
MAY 28—JUNE 1, Bogota Book Fair.....Columbia
JUNE 2—16, 5th International Book Festival, Manila.....Philippines
JUNE 6—11, ALA .....Chicago
JULY 2—11, Beijing Book Fair.....China
JULY 15—20, Political Sciences Exhibition.....Paris
AUGUST 10—25, Edinburgh Book Fair.....Scotland
AUG/SEP ? 3rd International Book Fair, Harare.....Zimbabwe
AUGUST 31—SEPTEMBER 8, Singapore Festival of Books....Singapore
OCTOBER 1—7, Madrid Book Fair .....Spain
OCTOBER 9—14, Frankfurt Book Fair.....Germany
OCTOBER ? Malaysia Book Fair, Kuala Lumpur.....Malaysia
OCTOBER 24—30, Belgrade Book Fair.....Yugoslavia
NOVEMBER 20—23, Education Asean .....Singapore
NOVEMBER 20—25, Montreal Book Fair.....Canada
NOV. 27 DEC 10, 2nd International Children's Book Fair Cairo
DECEMBER 2—5, Middle East Book Fair.....Bahrain

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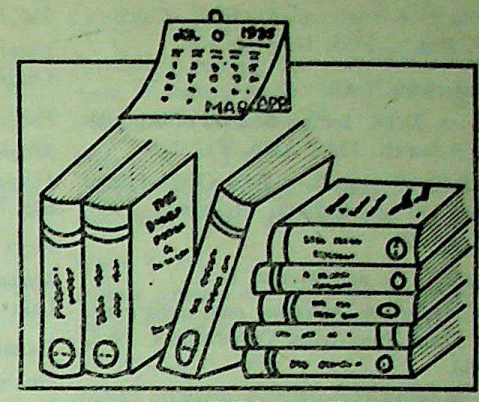

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BOOK REVIEWS

(*Continued from page* 34)

exposition of the Sadhana in the Trika system... the author possesses a full grasp of his subject, has deep knowledge of the difficult tenets of the system and has brought to bear upon his treatment a philosophically disciplined mind...the work is therefore lucid in exposition and learned in its contents.

INDIA RESOURCE REGIONS AND REGIONAL DISPARITY, by Sunil Kumar Munsi, People's Publishing House, New Delhi, 104pp., Rs. 20.00.

Natural law makes the distribution of physical resources in a country uneven. The strength of a society is reflected in such conservation and development of these resources, the benefit of which can be shared by all regions, irrespective of their levels of endowments. The gross regional disparity generated in India under colonialism has been further accentuated in the post-independence years of capitalist development. The author traces the manifestations of the existing regional imbalance in India from the point of view of a Marxist geographer.

TRADING IN LANGUAGE : The Story of English in India by Tulsi Ram, G.D.K. Publication, Delhi, 1983, 364pp., Rs. 60.

This book offers a challenging thesis sometimes mentioned but seldom argued earlier. It maintains that English was introduced into India as the rulers' language, chiefly, if not exclusively, with commercial and political motives. It was meant to serve Imperial ends of far-reaching significance during the British rule and even beyond. The myth of the English gifts of freedom, modernity and national unity is exploded by citation of the facts of current history — intellectual dependence, linguistic hierarchy, and socio-political division of the people into the tiny minority of the rulers using English and the vast majority of the ruled who don't know a word of it. Finally, the author concludes: We can't recover our identity except through freedom of thought and expression, and that won't be possible except through the native voice. English too has a place for specific purposes and inter-linguistic and cross-cultural fertilization.

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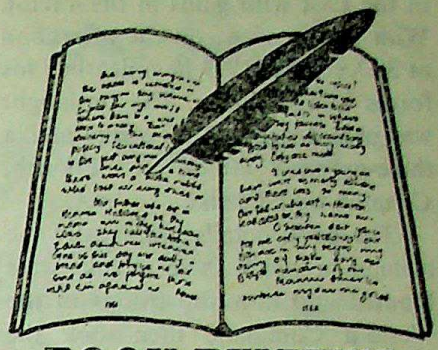

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PUNJAB CRISIS : CONTEXT AND TRENDS by Pramod Kumar et al., Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, 1984, 137pp., Rs. 38, US $4, UK £2.50

This work is an analysis of the Punjab crisis as it has evolved through different stages over a period of time. Studies on Punjab abound in instances of piecemeal approaches. The present one represents a more comprehensive treatment of this complex subject by researchers drawn from different disciplines. Socio-economic and political dimensions have been interwoven to understand the persistence of communal ideology. A systematic conceptual framework has been developed to demystify the present crisis. The exploitation of communal sentiments by vested interests as political and ideological instruments is also discussed. The researchers attempt to penetrate below the surface to expose clashes of economic interests among the rich peasants, traders and industrial bourgeoisie. They show that besides manifest cultural and religious factors these complex clashes of interests lie at the bottom of the crisis in Punjab and provide the background for its analysis. The implication of the 'convenient' political alliances in the past and their bearing on the present crisis are also examined. The perspective of the study is to suggest a long-term strategy to counter communalism.

The study has been carried out by an inter-disciplinary group of young researchers drawn from the fields of economics, political science and sociology and has been coordinated by Dr. Pramod Kumar. Other members include Manmohan Sharma, Atul Sood and Ashwani Handa.

SPEAKING OF : ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE ACUPUNCTURE by Nilesh Baxi & C.H. Asrani, Sterling Publishers (P) Ltd., New Delhi, 1985, 111pp, Rs. 60.

A short, lively and easy-to-understand introduction to acupuncture by two eminent doctors of Bombay, it is intended to awaken wider interest in this ancient art of healing. As an alternative system of medicine, acupuncture has won recognition even in countries other than those of the Orient. This is largely due to its effectiveness in providing relief from pain.

The book tells you all about acupuncture. Among other things, how it works; for what clinical conditions it is helpful; how many and how often treatment sittings are required; whether the needles used in treatment hurt. Acupuncture cures most diseases by removing the imbalance in the Life Energy in the human body which is the one cause of all ailments.

Profusely illustrated and supported by case histories, the book should appeal to the layman as well as the medical practitioner.

THE WESTERN FRONT : The Indo-Pakistan War 1971, by Lt. Gen. K. P. Candeth, Allied Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 1984, 182pp, Rs. 50.00.

This is the story of the fateful events leading to the dismemberment of Pakistan as seen through the eyes of the General Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Command, who was responsible for all military operations in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, and Northern Rajasthan.

As the crisis in the East deepened, more and more Indian formations were moved there and for a time the long Western border lay unguarded. A Pakistani attack at this time would have had very serious consequences. The stresses and strains and the anxiety felt at the time, the many false alarms of imminent Pakistani attacks are recounted, as also the planning of the defence and the build-up in the West. Yahya Khan, finally driven to desperation and knowing that he had no hope of victory in the East, staked his all on a rapid and successful campaign in the West, hoping to offset the losses

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in the East with gains in the West. With this in view, on the afternoon of 3 December 1979 he unleashed his forces in the West. The onslaught was preceded by an air strike and a three-pronged attack in Poonch, Chhamb and Fazilka.

The book details graphically the manner in which these attacks were blunted and how the troops in the Weste.n Command then took the offensive themselves, wresting the initiative from the enemy, thus putting an end to all the hopes that Yahya Khan cherished of victory in the West.

In the last part the author, a well-known military personality, deals with various shortcomings which exist in our Command and Control setup, the lack of coordination in the three Services, and deficiencies in our organisations and Intelligence Services. These are vital matters affecting the security of our country and so are of interest not only to defence personnel but to every citizen. This is of special significance now when Pakistan is acquiring new and sophisticated arms beyond the needs for its defence.

CIVILISATION AND THE HISTORICAL PROCESS, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1983, 390pp., Rs. 9.

This collective work is the result of philosophical investigation into various aspects of culture and civilisation and their inter-relationship within the historical process. It could also be described as a summary of the development of the Marxist-Leninist theory of civilisation, revealing its capacity to identify and analyse the problems of the modern world.

The authors include philosophers, historians and social scientists who are already well known for their research into cultural and historical developments. In this book they explain the basis for the Marxist classification of the socio-historical process, describe the sources and driving forces of social development and reveal the reasons why societies differ in their level of socio-historical and cultural development.

Having analysed contemporary bourgeois civilisation, the 'transitional' civilisations of the developing countries, and also the socio-cultural processes taking place within developed socialist society, the authors advance the thesis that the historical process is objectively leading to the formation of a single communist civilisation.

A HISTORY OF NEPALI LITERATURE by Kumar Pradhan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, 1984, 240pp., Rs. 25.

Nepali is widely spoken in the Himalayan terrain. Like many other Indo-Aryan languages, Nepali took its birth and grew in the Indian subcontinent long before India and Nepal took their present political shape. The Sahitya Akademi recognised Nepali as a modern literary language of India in 1975 and planned the publication of the history of literature written in it. The story of Nepali literature begins from thirteenth century rock inscriptions and has a chequered course. Prose writing in Nepali began earlier than in many other languages of India, and has steadily developed. Other genres appeared gradually and flourished.

SWARAJ : THE PROBLEM OF INDIA by J.E.Ellam, Lagos Press, New Delhi, 1984, (first Indian edition), 288 pp., Rs. 120, US $24.

This reprint of a 1930 edition comes at a time when the mood is one of nostalgia for the days of the Raj. The picture presented here, however, is of the unrest and turmoil among the Indian peoples at the time. Devoid of the sympathy and understanding that many enlightened Britishers of the time held for the nationalist leaders in India, the author traces the roots of this unrest not to the mass of the people but to the "corrupt and rebellious minds of a few irreconcilable intelligentsia." According to Captain Ellam, who prefaces his work with a brief and summary history of India since the advent of the Aryans, the Swaraj movement was a wholly reactionary movement designed to further the cause and support the ascendancy of the Brahmins in this country.

Ellam's object was to show that centuries earlier, the Aryan ancestors of the Hindus had arrived at a high state of civilisation. Later, however, "certain influences, developing within that civilisation, destroyed it, and so lowered the morale of its people that they fell a prey to successive waves of foreign invasion".

A JUDGE'S MISCELLANY (FOURTH SERIES) by M. Hidayatullah, Bombay, N.M. Tripathi, 1984, 167 pp., Rs. 65.

The success of the previous three series of *A Judge's Miscellany* has led to this fourth series. As in the other series, this volume also contains articles on Law, Speeches and Addresses given by the author. Some of his speeches on legal matters have raised a storm in legal circles. In this volume will also be found, among others, some Convocation Addresses and the Justice B. D. Bal Memorial Lecture. The book also has some literary pieces which the readers will find very interesting.

Each speech and monograph is a profound study and the style of the writing is elegant in the characteristic manner of the author. This volume will be found to be a useful addition to the preceding miscellanies.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SADHANA by Debaprata Sen Sharma, Natraj Publishing House, Karnal, 1983, 187pp., Rs. 110, $ 22.

This work according to Prof. Baladeva Upadhyaya, formerly Research Director of Sanskrit University, is a solid piece of philosophical research work....the author has presented for the first time a clear

(*Continued on page* 32)

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JAPAN

Mr Warren E. Ball

Intercontinental Marketing Corp.
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Chuoku, Tokyo, Japan 103
Tel: 03-661-8373

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M.S. SHARMA*

ISBN in Operation in India

The twentieth century is a century of electronics. The impact of new technologies and rapid developments in telecommunications and electronic communication have revolutionized everyday life to a great extent, particularly in western countries.

The publishing industry in the developed countries uses computers in its day-to-day national and international business to make its distribution and ordering systems speedy and perfect. However, in Indian business circles, specially in the book publishing industry, use of computers is very limited although the need for wider use of this technology is urgently felt.

The Indian book publishing industry has made big strides, especially in the post-independence era. We have now a publishing infrastructure of enormous size, with more than 12,000 publishers—large, medium and small. It produces 20,000 titles, ranking 7th in the world and first in the Third World. India is the third largest English language book producing country after the U.S.A. and Britain. The book industry has been exporting Indian books to over 80 countries of the world. Books on Indology, Orientalia and books of general interest are exported to the U.S.A., the U.K. and other western countries. To give a further impetus to such a promising book trade, introduction of devices which can boost its exports and minimize procedural delays is urgently needed. The International Standard Book Numbering (ISBN) system is one which can meet all its requirements.

*Librarian, Raja Rammohun Roy National Educational Resources Centre, New Delhi.

The introduction of the ISBN system in India from January 1985 will go a long way in modernizing the book industry in the country and in helping it to achieve its export targets. In order to derive maximum benefit from it, however, publishers should consider use of computers.

The question of introducing the ISBN system in India had been under consideration of the Book Promotion Division of the Ministry of Education for a long time. After a great deal of deliberation the Ministry designated the Raja Rammohun Roy National Educational Resources Centre as the National Agency to operate the ISBN system in India.

The Raja Rammohun Roy National Educational Resources Centre, an integral part of the Ministry of Education, was established in 1972 as an extension of promotional activities of the Book Promotion Division of the Ministry. It functions primarily as a data bank for the indigenous book trade. It is a research-cum-information centre and promotes writing at university level in English, Hindi and regional languages.

The ISBN system is of very recent origin. In 1966 the U.K. Publishers Association sponsored a report on standard numbering in the book trade. The same year, the need for and feasibility of an international numbering system for books was discussed at the third International Conference on Book Market and Research and Rationalisation, held in Berlin. As a result of the latter meeting, the Documentation Committee (ISO/TC 46) of the International Organization for Standardization became interested in the work being done in the U.K. and at its plenary meeting in Moscow in June 1967, it was resolved to set up a working party. The British Standards Institution agreed to act as convener and to provide a Secretariat. The first meeting was held in London in September 1968 and prepared a draft of an international standard

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for numbering of books. The meeting was attended by representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, Denmark. There was also an observer from UNESCO. Yet another meeting was held in Berlin in April 1969 and there for the first time book trade members of the British working party, librarians, publishers and book-sellers agreed to work together to devise an international book numbering system. In May 1969, at Berlin, a draft for an ISBN scheme was framed

(1) to register groups;

(2) to allocate identifiers to groups;

(3) to advise groups on the setting up and functioning of group agencies;

(4) to advise group agencies on the allocation of publisher identifiers; and

(5) to promote worldwide use of the system.

At the 13th plenary meeting of ISO/TC 46, held in Lisbon in April 1971, the Secretariat of ISO/TC 46 announced that the German State Library in Berlin had offered to provide staff and accommodation and to pay for them. In 1972, an ISBN agency was set up at Berlin within the STAATSBIBLIOTHEK PREUSSISCHER KULTURBESITZ onPotsdamer Strasse. Its first director, Dr. Karl Neubauer, is still *en poste*. Starting with four countries using the system their number has now increased to more than 45, including India.

ISBN is based on international standard ISO-2108, 1972. The purpose of ISO-2108 is to coordinate and standardize internationally the use of book numbers so that an ISBN identifies one title or edition of a title from one specific publisher and is unique to that title or edition.

ISBN is a unique number given to a book to identify its publisher, the individual title, or a volume of a multi-volumed work, and is unique to that title or edition or volume. It consists of 10 digits and is in four parts, i.e., Group Identifier, Publisher Identifier, Title Identifier and Check Digit.

Group Identifiers are allotted by the International Standard Book Numbering Agency, Berlin. India has been allotted 81 and 92 as Group Identifiers. Publisher Identifiers are allotted by the National Agency set up for this purpose. In the case of India the Rammohun Roy Centre will allot Publisher Identifiers to its publishers and others who wish to join the system. Title Identifiers will be allotted by the publishers. The fourth part, i.e., the Check Digit, according to the ISO recommendation No. 2108, will be computed as a result of an elaborate calculation on the other nine digits taking modulus 11 with weight 10-2 using X in lieu of 10 where 10 occurs as a Check Digit.

ISBN, in other words, is a translation of bibliographical data into Arabic numerals because the computer 'file' is most rapidly "addressed" by number. The number is the key that unlocks that part of the memory of a computer where required information has been stored. This means that a book title has to be translated into a number before a computer can function in a book trade. All essential details, from bibliographical ones to those relating to stock situation in respect of any or every book can be stored in a computer file. Each record on the file (carrying all the details of one particular title) has a different number. This is how the machine works.

The ISBN system has a decentralised administration and is operated by the Group Agencies (National Agencies) in the various countries. The first important step in introducing the ISBN system is to find an institution which is qualified to take over the responsibility of the National Agency which is usually supported by publishers and the national bibliographic or library services within the groups. In many countries National/Group agencies are located within the national libraries. In India, as mentioned elsewhere, the Raja Rammohun Roy National Educational Resources Centre was designated in 1977 as the National Agency.

The National Agency in each country performs the following functions:—

(1) To manage and administer the affairs of the group;

(2) To conduct relations with the International ISBN Agency on behalf of all the publishers in the group;

(3) To decide, in consulation with trade organizations and publishers, the Publisher Identifier ranges required;

(4) To allocate Publisher Identifiers to publishers eligible to join the group and to maintain a register of publishers and their Publisher Identifiers.

(5) To decide, in consultation with trade organizations and publishers, which publishers will assign numbers to their own titles and which publishers will have numbers assigned to their titles by the group agency;

(6) To provide technical advice and assistance to publishers and ensure that standards and approved procedures are observed in the group;

(7) To make available a manual of instructions for publishers;

(8) To make available computer printouts of ISBN to publishers numbering their own books with check digits already calculated;

(9) To assist the trade in the use of ISBN in computer systems;

(10) To arrange with book listing and bibliographic agencies for

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the publication of ISBN with the titles to which they refer;

(11) To assign numbers to all publications from those publishers who do not assign their own ISBN and advise the publishers concerned of ISBN; and

(12) To maintain liaison with all elements of the book trade and introduce new publishers to the system and so on.

The items to be numbered under the system include printed books and pamphlets, micro form publications, mixed media publications, Braille publications, machine readable tapes designed to produce readable print-outs, and other similar media including educational films and transparencies. The material of an ephemeral nature like diaries, calendars, art prints, etc., are not to be numbered. ISBN can also be used for maps but only if they are distributed by the Book Trade. Not only this, educational films and transparencies have been introduced into the system.

In the U.K. ISBN was as total as possible. About 85 per cent of books were numbered by the publishers and 15 per cent by the ISBN Agency.

Before assigning ISBN to them, the items have to be examined keeping a number of factors in view so that no future complications arise. For example, a multi-volume work needs ISBN for the whole set as well as for its individual volumes. A separate ISBN must be assigned to a facsimile reprint produced by a different publisher. Likewise, books in different formats also need separate ISBN. Here it is of the utmost importance that duplication must be avoided at any cost otherwise the very purpose of ISBN may be defeated and it may become difficult to check invalid ISBNs at a later stage.

The success of the ISBN system depends on its effective use. It provides a unique identification number for each book published. Distinctions such as binding, edition, publisher, etc., are written into the number. In general, ISBN provides a way for all parties—publishers, wholesalers, retailers, libraries, and patrons—to communicate with each other about a specific book in an unambiguous manner without the burden of using complex bibliographical citations. The system has many merits like speeding up deliveries and reducing errors in book ordering because the ISBN simply and uniquely identifies what is wanted. As already mentioned, ISBN has a check digit which only works in a computer if the number is a valid one. Though the ISBN system does wonders if computers are used, it can also assist in conventional operations.

The supreme benefit of the ISBN system is that publishers and the book trade throughout the world are brought under a unified system of business relationships. It is an efficient and economic communication link among publishers, suppliers, book-sellers and book buyers. ISBN is a means for coordination and familiarization of personnel involved in book publishing activities or the book trade at international, national and local levels. The ISBN system avoids verbatim copying of titles, authors and other bibliographical data. It also helps in keeping a register of publishers in a country. National libraries of various countries are using ISBN as control numbers.

ISBN has been acclaimed all over the world as the best instrument for numbering books. The utility of the system has been recognized so much so that its field of application is being extended to other spheres. For example, it is being tried out in the field of libraries and documentation centres. It has been found useful, particularly in inter-library loan procedures. If by becoming a party to the ISBN system we in India wish to draw maximum benefits from it, our book publishing houses, specially those which are poineers in export of books, should immediately switch over to computers. India produces quality computers and it is high time these were used by the national book trade.

India has been allotted 81 and 92 as Group Identifiers, by the ISBN Agency at Berlin. When the system is fully adopted and all publications, as far as possible, are numbered, it will help the book industry to achieve its export targets conveniently. Use of computers and ISBN are definite steps towards modernization of our indigenous book industry which has already gained recognition all over the world. Not only this, the ISBN system itself will probably get consolidated by more and more countries joining it.

Lastly, a line may be added about the National Agency in India which in a very short period has prepared the infrastructure needed for implementation of the ISBN system and with great difficulty has been able to get two Group Identifiers from the National Agency at Berlin. The National Agency in India has been allotting publisher identifiers since January 1985. Now it is up to the publishers to avail of this opportunity to boost their national and international business.

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S. M. GANGULY*

Educational Publishing: Role of Public and Private Sectors

India follows the path of mixed economy which contains elements of both public and private enterprise. The inroads made by the former upon the traditional sphere of the latter is a phenomenon that has developed in India and elsewhere specially after World War II. Every State is getting more and more entagled with more and more economic activities. In the field of publishing, Governments, whether capitalist or socialist, have for long assumed the role of author, publisher and printer. They have recently entered the field of educational publishing and nationalized it to a considerable extent. The public sector is the whipping horse of critics of the Government, while protagonists of the public sector claim that it is working well. As such a balanced judgement is necessary.

Textbooks are the mainstay of formal education. In the developing countries State intervention in textbook production has been considered imperative in the context of free and compulsory education at primary and secondary levels. Because an adequate supply of appropriate kinds of books within the means of pupils requires heavy investment in research, experimentation, examination reform and curricular development, besides inputs for large production, very few in the private sector possess the requisite financial capacity and academic interest to cater to the needs of society. Consequently, Governments, wedded to a policy of rapid transformation of the educational system with a view to making it suitable for the needs and aspirations of the country, have to step in.

The pros and cons of the inroads the public sector has made upon educational publishing in India, traditionally a preserve of the private sector, have been amply debated. The author re-examines some important aspects of this subject and attempts an evaluation of the performance of both the sectors.

After independence, when India was poised for a spurt in educational development, there was a felt need for appropriate reading materials on different subjects in adequate quantities. The planners and policy-makers were concerned about the miserable state of affairs in regard to production of textbooks in most of the States. They decided not to depend on the slipshod commercial book trade to meet the country's requirements. It was also not possible for the private trade to meet the challenge of providing textbooks in different languages as the situation demanded.

Broadly, textbook publications are categorized into three levels, namely, primary, secondary and college and university. Most of the textbooks for the primary stage have been nationalized. In regard to secondary and higher secondary levels, production of textbooks is more or less in the hands of the Government, varying from State to State. College and university levels of textbooks are however in the hands of the private sector which covers publications of non-profit organizations.

The trend of textbooks at college and university level has been characterized as "from western textbooks to eastern notebooks".

Most of the textbooks as also the reference books recommended for almost all courses of post-graduate studies are written, published and imported from western countries, while our students take recourse to notes made available in the classroom obtained from the book market.

Ever since the introduction of modern education in India, which was gradually brought about under the Imperial rule, the question of

*Librarian, Rabindra Bharati University.

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providing necessary textbooks has engaged the attention of the Government. As early as 1873 a resolution was passed by the then Government of India, asking the local Governments to appoint committees for the examination of school books in order to discover defects of form and content in them and to bring them into harmony with the principle which required appointment of standing committees to choose or, if necessary, to prepare appropriate textbooks in Indian languages and to draw up a list of suitable books for adoption in schools. Where no suitable textbooks existed, the committees were directed to take steps to prepare such books. Since then textbook committees have existed in different provinces to review and recommend books submitted to them by the publishers for studies in schools.

Much later, the Secondary Education Commission (Mudaliar), which was appointed in 1952, observed that most of the books received by the textbook committees from the commercial publishers and prescribed for schools were unsatisfactory in every way specially in regard to paper, printing and illustrations. The Commission was clear in its opinion that "some of the textbooks should be published directly under the auspices of the Textbook Committee" constituted by the Government.[1]

By the middle of the 1950s, with the spread of education, the tendency of profiteering appeared prominently among the Central and State Governments. As a result, most of the State Governments gradually took over production of textbooks. Some States produced a few books for the primary stage, while some others produced all kinds of books up to the secondary stage. In a few States not only production, but also sale and distribution of textbooks were taken over by the Governments.

Next came the Education Commission (Kothari) which was appointed in 1964. It observed that "in most school subjects there was a proliferation of low quality, substandard and badly produced books, particularly in the regional languages". This state of affairs was due to (1) lack of interest shown by top-ranking scholars in writing textbooks—this was done by incompetent persons; (2) malpractices in the selection and prescription of textbooks; (3) unscrupulous tactics adopted by several publishers; (4) lack of research in the preparation and production of textbooks; and (5) an almost total disregard by private publishers (who are interested only in profits) of the social need and their propensity to bring out ancillary books, such as teachers' guides to accompany textbooks.

The Kothari Commission unequivocally recommended creation in the public sector, both at national and State levels, of autonomous organizations functioning on commercial lines for the preparation, production and distribution of textbooks needed at the school and university levels.[2]

Before we examine the performance of the public sector in textbook production, we may review the record of working of the private sector. The private sector in the book trade is composed of heterogeneous organizations: small, medium and large-size firms.

Many of the Indian publishing firms, especially those engaged in producing books in regional languages, possess a bright tradition of rendering a valuable service to society for decades. However, quite a few firms who care little for the dignity and sanctity of the book trade have come up. Gresham's Law has started operating well. These firms sacrifice quality and norms of profit. To make profits is no crime, but it should be matched with ethical norms which are not uncommon in the business world. The Indian book trade is yet to formulate a code of ethics and to earn credibility in this regard.

The charges levelled against the commercial publishers in regard to physical aspects of textbooks are not always justified. In some regional languages, publications in the private sector about a couple of decades ago could be compared with productions of advanced countries. But it is a tragedy that producers of textbooks no longer give attention to internationally accepted standards of production because of factors which are often beyond their knowledge and capacity.

The book trade in the private sector is handicapped in many ways. There is a dearth of capital, non-availability of loan facilities, paper crisis, mounting expenses of other materials and services. Above all, the market is largely erratic and unpredictable. Perhaps the uncertainty of the market induces a section of the book trade to resort to malpractices, such as bribery, undue gratification, lowering the standard and quality of production, deception of authors, exploitation of employees and the like. Some of them indulge in producing textbooks written by non-reputed persons, but published in the names of reputed authors.

The public sector has certain built-in advantages. It can easily afford enormous capital outlays without taking into account the law of diminishing returns. It does not have to bother about obtaining the inputs, including the services of authors who feel secure in Government hands. It enjoys a monopoly of the textbook market. In case of a limited market or absence of it, Government products can be dumped causing headache to none. The question of cost-benefit ratio hardly arises.

After the Government embarked upon textbook production, its performance was on the whole satisfactory for some time. Gradually, maladies in production and distribution started raising their heads.

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Mistakes and wrong information are often found here and there in the contents which are not always corrected in subsequent prints or editions. Printing mistakes, hazy prints, small types, dearth of illustrations and size of books discourage the young learners from reading them. Books do not always reach the pupils in time and there is frequent black-marketing in distribution.

The book industry in our country still comes under the category of small industry which does not ordinarily require a huge capital outlay. In the face of the countrywide problem of unemployment, the book industry has ample scope for self-employment. It is argued that the inroads made by the State sector upon textbook publishing are impeding the employment potential inasmuch as the textbook market constitutes a substantial part of the turnover of the book trade. If the textbooks remained in the hands of the private sector, the profits derived therefrom could be ploughed back in bringing out general publications which are essential for social progress. Such books earn enormous hard currency and also enjoy an all-India market.

It is believed that a free and competitive market could provide the impetus to improve the quality of books and free competition could provide the constant urge for betterment which is getting lost in monopolistic trends. There remains, however, a fallacy that no free competition is possible among publishers who are unequal in respect of capital and other resources. Moreover, cut-throat competition is invariably suicidal to the trade.

Dr Malcolm S. Adiseshiah, an eminent educationist, observed more than a decade ago that the Government policy to print and publish textbooks "has not resulted in raising the quality of books nor in increasing their supply and access." It has rather introduced, in his opinion, "an element of curricular rigidity at a time when there should be more educational flexibility and innovation". He seems to be realistic in his suggestion that each State Government should review its policy of publishing textbooks from the standpoint of optimum quality, supply, access and low cost. Instead of recommending a radical departure in policy matters, he pleaded that the Government should concentrate on publishing books for adult education and for the first four years of primary education, which is compulsory and free. Books for secondary and university courses should be left to the private sector under the norms and approval procedures of the Governments and universities.[3]

Likewise, another eminent educationist, Dr Amrik Singh, has put forward a suggestion that "without denationalizing school level textbooks it is possible to develop a joint sector". He has pointed out that the present system of "writing and production of school books is on the whole poor", and to a certain extent competition would be "useful" if textbook production is done in a joint sector.[4]

Mr. Narendra Kumar, a leading publisher, contends that no education commission has so far recommended the monopolization of textbooks, but in practice, he comments, the State has elbowed out the private publisher from the field of textbook publishing. However, the field of textbooks for higher education has not been closed to the private sector. He believes that the NCERT, which was set up to bring out model textbooks to encourage private publishers, has overstepped its limits and entered textbook publishing with State support. Perhaps what cannot be cured has to be endured. In his opinion, State boards and agencies should confine themselves to building up an infrastructure in terms of reviewing and reforming policies, examination procedures, curricular requirements and the like, but some of the State book boards are systematically publishing useful books at low prices which would not have been normally ventured by the private publishers. Of course, State boards are backed by State exchequers and are not bothered by the question of profit and loss.[5]

Mr. Abul Hasan of the Ministry of Education and Culture, defends the position of the State by saying that when a democratic State undertakes textbook publishing, the intention is not to earn a profit or to wipe out private publishing but to meet an immediate practical problem of national magnitude. But in reality some of the State publishing ventures are languishing, causing wastage of public money. For want of editing and lack of technical knowhow State publications are not above reproach. He claims that the Government undertakes periodical evaluation of textbooks and provides funds for subsidies for publication of research and scholarly writings which the private sector would be unable to undertake.[6]

In the context of self-employment potential, the public sector should try to serve as a supplement to private sector publishing. The State can easily control quality, impose guidelines and offer incentives to private publishers in order that while maintaining accepted standards books can be made available to the people at reasonable prices. Given financial and other facilities, the private sector could considerably improve the quality and content of the textbooks and ensure timely release of materials.

One of the ways out of the current tangle would be for the private and and public sectors to complement each other's operations. Concretely, possibilities may be explored for mutual assistance and collaboration

(*Continued on page* 14)

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MARSH JEANNERET

God and Mammon

University presses were invented to meet the needs of academic authors who wanted a better mechanism than commercial publishing to present new information to other researchers, regardless of its saleability. In North America, at least, firms that were earnings-oriented were not expected to treat academic writers and profitable authors even-handedly. Nor could the ultimate purpose of such enterprises (which was to make a profit) be modified simply by grants-in-aid. It was clearly unreasonable to expect any business firm to publish without the prospect of financial gain; but why should a foundation, for example, support needed publishing if its subsidies created private profits? Yet this happened whenever a grant-in-aid exceeded the difference between costs and revenue.

From the outset it was clear that effective dissemination involved more than mere distribution, more than filling whatever orders might come in. If scholarly publications were to reach all readers who needed them they had to be propelled into every normal channel of the book trade, including bookstores and libraries, and have attention drawn to them by reviews, notices, and bibliographic references in other works. Accordingly, university presses strove to maximize sales of their publications by adopting every possible feature of commercial publishing, including business organization and marketing procedures. This further encouraged their parent universities to look to them to become what they were never intended to be; and the presses themselves were too easily persuaded to compete, sometimes ineffectually, with private enterprise.

> Should a university press refrain from publishing works that are potentially profitable? Not necessarily, says the author, although the expectation that they will make money is the last reason why it should decide to publish them.

Thus university presses came to vie more and more with other publishers as they sought to fulfill the requirement that they make as much money as possible by seeking best-sellers even as they proclaimed the indispensability to scholarship of their service; to too great an extent their criteria of success became sales dollars and numbers of copies circulated instead of the frequency with which their publications were cited in references and bibliographies and the stature of the media in which such notices appeared.

It was not widely enough appreciated that the commercial model was essentially wrong for scholarly publishing. Instead, the presses were invited by everyone to whom they were beholden to be as commercially effective as possible—by their authors and by scholars at large, by book reviewers, by university administrators, and by all their customers in the book trade. Created to neutralize the profit motive, they soon were depending too much on the added resources they could earn by exploiting the mystique attached to their mandate to issue books and journals.

But it would be unjust to say that commercialization led university presses to abandon their original mission; instead, most did their best to serve God and Mammon both, and Toronto was no exception. They expended all their net incomes, often more, on scholarly publications of a quality that consistently reflected the highest ideals of academic research. No other publishing facility could do this, either public or private. As university presses spread across the American continent in the 1950s and 1960s their service to the academic community came to be limited only by the funds available to support the ever increasing array of books and journals they were turning

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out, especially in the humanities and social sciences.

The trouble was that the volume of scholarly reporting that university presses could undertake depended too often on how much successful commercial publishing they could turn out at the same time. Institutional support remained important to most presses; they could not even be started without some initial subsidy. Why it was widely supposed that their programmes could be continued and expanded without further assistance is unclear. Probably it was because the manufacturing and trading activities of publishing lent themselves more naturally to profit-and-loss accounting than did teaching and research. And profitable publishing continued to stand out in the minds of most administrators as the most convenient source of additional funds to support scholarly reporting whether or not it risked distracting presses from their proper functions.

Every university had to be gladdened whenever its academic publishing programme was assisted by external subsidies of one kind or another, of course. It did not matter whether these came as outright grants from private or national foundations or in the less obvious form of free access to the results of enormously expensive funded research. University presses accordingly grew as channels of scholarly communication, but not necessarily as agencies which the universities themselves willingly considered when their budget committees went through the annual ritual of partitioning academic resources between teaching and research.

In fact, the levels of net subsidization of scholarly publishing by universities came to figure less in discussions even in the meetings and association activities of the presses themselves than did more technical publishing concerns. The latter embraced such topics as the techniques of editing, mechanics of publishing, and principles of business administration, with special emphasis on how to expand sales at home and abroad. The presses' responsibilities of stewardship doubtless warranted the collective attention they gave to such topics as building foreign distribution, how best to increase domestic sales, advertising and promotion generally, remaindering of editions, accounting systems for large and small presses, data processing, copyright, and warehousing methods. But the relations between publishing departments and their university administrations, and the connection between academic support and the amount and kinds of publishing done were seldom subjected to collective analysis by the presses, being hardly ever reviewed at their meetings officially even though such matters were constantly discussed privately by the press directors and their senior colleagues.

Necessary though university presses were, they did not spring up spontaneously across the academic map. Each was established and sponsored by its own parent body, usually after some urging by local scholars who wished to see their institution's name added to an expanding list of American university imprints. Fortunately not every university aspired to have its own press; this would have been absurd. Truly distinguished research writing was not likely to go unpublished for want of a scholarly press on campus; the facilities for learned publishing were growing too rapidly.

Nevertheless, by the 1960s most large and many of the smaller North American universities did boast of their own publishing imprints. It was possible to count more than a hundered of them and the catalogues of publications they offered for sale were impressive. Ironically, they were sufficiently impressive to lend further credence to the notion that a well-run press ought to be able to return much of its costs through sales, perhaps even pay its way entirely once it was started. Publishing announcements in cultural and academic periodicals and reviews and bibliographic references everywhere reinforced the notion that a publishing arm was something that a growing university (they were all growing) could ill afford to be without, especially if the expense of entering the field could be made the main cost. The principal of one well-known university remarked facetiously, when his institution was belatedly considering adding its own distinguished imprint to scholarly publishing, "As I interpret it, then, about a hundred thousand dollars is the price of admission."

It would be fair to say that it was the policies of public and private foundations, large and small, and the consistency with which they were administered that did most to stem the drift toward commercialism that threatened many university presses. The Ford Foundation grants to scholarly publishing, first announced in 1956, and the Mellon grants of the early 1970s, helped to meet current financial needs of many presses even as the eligibility rules for these grants supplied powerful reminders of the real purpose of scholarly publishing to all concerned. These major measures of assistance supplemented innumerable other grants programmes which supplied collateral funding for the scholarly output of most university presses in North America. In Canada, to which the assistance of both the Ford and Mellon Foundations was extended impartially, the Canada Council was increasing the help it gave annually to scholarly as well as other kinds of publishing.

Certainly without the prospect of practical encouragement from foundations and similar bodies, fewer

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universities would have started presses in the first place. And many existing presses would have ended or curtailed their programmes, or have edged even more decisively than they did into speculative publishing in search of revenue. Tax-paying commercial firms would not have accepted such a situation for long, and could justifiably have brought to bear sufficient political pressures to end it. Even elightened university administrators would have lost heart over the mounting investment required to earn a kind of dividend whose value was hard to demonstrate, particularly to businessmen on their governing boards.

Academic publishing by university presses thus came to depend increasingly on title grants from foundations, governmental and private. But these bodies were not alone in upholding *bona fide* scholarly publishing for its own sake. Every press had an academic editorial committee whose normal duties included supervising the process of peer assessment of manuscripts. Their members were not oblivious to the desirability of also approving titles that would "do well in the shops", but the task of proposing potential best-sellers and of negotiating for other profitable works devolved chiefly on the management of each press. If its terms of reference permitted, the editorial committee might even approve a quasi-commercial undertaking before a publishing commitment is made. On commercial ventures its reports might be perfunctory, for example when the question was whether or not to buy an edition of a new work already scheduled for publication abroad. Certainly such situations carried the function of a university press beyond simply enabling publication of a work that otherwise would not be issued.

The policy of balancing prospective costs against prospective profits was basically unsound because it was founded on assumptions that were either inconsistent or unworkable. It must be understood, however, that virtually every university press that managed to survive continued to play a key role in disseminating serious scholarship throughout North America and the world. There are those who claim that they might have been expected to show more initiative than they did in developing fresh forms of publication made possible by a mushrooming communications technology. But they could barely afford to keep abreast of what was happening, being able to experiment with the changes taking place in the graphic arts only when these offered immediate financial advantages.

If the presses had been libraries or research bodies or even adminstrative departments (and so not expected to generate their own revenue) they might have been supplied with sophisticated copiers, photoprinters, word processors and photocomposers, terminals, and advanced electronic equipment of many kinds as they came on the market. Most university presses did not do their own printing and binding, but all could have made good use of the new equipment in their editorial, design, and accounting departments, though able to do so, only when rapid payoffs could be anticipated.

Admittedly, incessant speculation is the hallmark of publishing; it can be an intensely ethical pursuit as well, occasionally perhaps an elitist one. Every new work is different, and may be judged and compared with others with respect to literary style, artistic quality, usefulness and reliability of information presented, and in numerous other ways. This kind of rivalry is sound in that it furnishes most publishers with an incentive to select and produce better books; a university press, too, benefits by being exposed to such competition and should in turn provide through the publications it issues sound leadership to other houses.

However, for commercial firms the consideration that outweighs all others in determining publishability is bottom-line profitability; the reasons for this are understandable and in our society cannot be changed. But the university press that permits the prospect of profit to decide what works it will issue has lost sight of its mission, and the university that supposes it can sponsor a scholarly publishing programme without counting it as part of its academic budgetary responsibility will be disillusioned.

Should a university press refrain from issuing works that are potentially profitable? Not necessarily, although the expectation that they will make money is the last reason why it should decide to publish them. And whether there are profits or losses these ought to be assumed automatically by the parent university in accordance with a previously approved budget, which the press management may rightly be expected to meet.

When a university requires that its press balance the expense of publishing academic books and journals with profits from other kinds of publishing, it imposes on its scholarly publishing responsibilities that lie outside the purposes of both a university press and a university. There is every reason to demand that a publishing department be operated in a business-like fashion, but it is something else to thrust it into competition with commerce at large. The scholarly press's function is to produce works which in the main may not be published elsewhere. It should help to determine which of such manuscripts are likely to be most valuable to the scholars for whom they have been written; it should prepare them for publication and produce them in appropriate editions and runs, and it has the further duty of ensuring that they are brought to the attention of potential users throughout the academic world.

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Wise Words to Help Small Publishers*

The ten most common—and most critical—problems of small book publishing houses are:

VAGUE ACCOUNTABILITY INDEXES : Management's failure to make absolutely clear who is responsible for the growth rate, newtitle sales contribution, net operating margin, per-page composition cost, and every other major operating statistic that determines success or failure.

UNDISCIPLINED EDITORIAL CHOICES : Failure to find—and stick with—a niche that makes the house unique, so that the marketing people have a chance.

UNSPECIFIC MARKETING : Following generalized, traditional rituals (from news release to convention exhibit) without any clear goal as to what you want to make happen, how many times, and resultant sales dollars.

EXCESSIVE PRINT QUANTITIES : Most publishers who print books they will have to warehouse for more than a year are a making mistake.

POOR PRE-CONTRACT ANALYSES : Many P and L projections are wishful thinking to defend proposals; the right technique weeds out weak books before they cost anything.

UNDERFUNDED MARKETING : Because it's more variable and flexible, this is usually the first budget cut when things get tight, and that simply compounds the problem by drying up the cash flow.

UNCOMPETITIVE PRODUCTION BUYING : One-third of the publishers we've worked with are captives of a single typesetter; one-fourth of a favourite printer.

SLOW MARKETING IMPACT : Working capital problems multiply when marketing doesn't (or can't) schedule its major efforts to bring in cash from new titles before the printer has to be paid.

UNIQUE DESIGNS : Nobody but your typesetter knows—or cares—if most of your books look alike, but the costs often come down substantially.

PROFESSIONAL ISOLATION : Small publishers who fail to get acquainted with counterparts in other houses suffer perspective problems; it's like being guided by the sound of one hand clapping —in the dark

*Reproduced from IASP Newsletter, February, 1985.

Educational Publishing

(*Continued from page* 10)

between the private and public sectors in textbook publishing through schemes of co-publication, co-sponsorship, etc. Wholesale book distribution centres should be jointly created to facilitate a free flow of books from publishers to distant distributing agents.

The National Book Development Council set up by the Government of India should persuade banks and other financial agencies to extend loans to publishers on easy terms. The Council should undertake promotional schemes like market research and market surveys regionally. It should ensure monitoring of textbook publications and develop a mechanism whereby publishers can find a market for their books which are badly needed by the students.

The Raja Rammohun Roy National Educational Resources Centre, which was set up to promote writing and production of indigenous books for post-graduate studies, should maintain a national register of authors capable of writing books in English and regional languages. The Centre should also help in building up contacts between authors and publishers.

Owing to the perennial loss stemming from inefficient administration, some State Governments are contemplating to make over a few public undertakings to the private sector. Whether it materialises or not, joint sectors can perhaps be explored through goodwill and understanding. And without making a prestige issue, of it, a beginning can he made with textbook publishing.

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FEDERATION NEWS

PLEA TO RESTORE TAX BENEFITS

The Federation of Publishers and Booksellers' Associations in India has urged the Finance Minister not to allow Section 80QQ to lapse as envisaged in the budget proposals for 1985-86. Withdrawal of this concession would severely affect the publishing business in this country.

Under Section 80QQ, publishers were allowed to retain part of their profits for "ploughing back" into new books. The measure was intended to encourage Indian publishing.

The Union Education Ministry had asked the National Council of Applied Economic Research to conduct a survey of the economic problems of the publishing business. The Council in its report, submitted in 1983, observed that "given the importance of books this rebate should be extended beyond its present deadline of 1985-86 assessment year. Circumstances at present are no different from those in 1971-72 when Section 80QQ was introduced in the Income Tax Act. Rather, the circumstances have deteriorated a great deal in the last few years."

UGC TO RELEASE RS 500 CRORES TO VARSITIES

The University Grants Commission is reported to have decided to release a sum of Rs 500 crores for higher education in the country. It will in addition release Rs 124 crores for adult education in India.

SURVEY OF PRINTING INDUSTRY

The Government of India has approved a proposal to conduct an indepth survey of the growth and development of the Printing Machineries Industry in India. According to Mr P. G. Latey, Director General of Technical Development, the survey will throw light on the present state of the domestic printing industry.

Inaugurating a meeting of the Council for Printing Industry, he said at present almost 50 per cent of the requirements of printing machinery were being met through imports. This indicated substantial scope for further development of indigenous printing machinery.

Mr. Latey said though foreign collaboration was allowed in the Printing Industry, the technology selected, should suit Indian conditions.

NCERT FOR COMMON CORE COURSE

A National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) working group on curriculum load in schools has recommended, among other things, that a national common core curriculum applicable to all schools in the country should be formulated. The curriculum should be supplemented by specific curricula to meet the local ecological, sociological, cultural, economic and developmental requirements relevant to each region, state and district.

OPEN VARSITY PLAN UNDER STUDY

The Union Education Minister, Mr. K. C. Pant, said in New Delhi recently that the Government was Considering the question of establishment of an open university in the country to serve its emerging needs in the field of higher education. He was inaugurating a conference of Vice-Chancellors of Universities in Asia and the Pacific.

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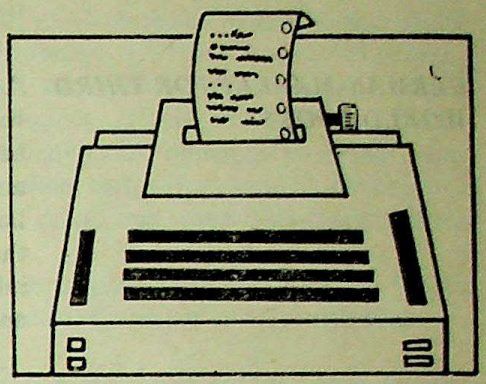

NEWS AND EVENTS

PM PRESENTED WITH BOOKS

A set of three books of a proposed 12-volume series narrating the story of the freedom struggle and published by the Kairali Children's Book Trust was presented to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi on April 2.

The presentation was made by well-known writers D. C. Kizhakkemuri and N. V. Krishna Varier. The Kottayam-based Book Trust also gave Mr. Gandhi a complete set of a 144-volume series containing the biographies of 515 great men, Indian and foreign.

The first book in the series was on Jawaharlal Nehru.

BOOK PIRACY IN BIHAR

Pirated editions of R. K. Narayan's Sahitya Akademi award-winning novel *The Guide*, according to a Patna student, are being sold all over Bihar. The student has sent the title page of the pirated edition to Indian Thought Publishers, Mysore, who publish the Indian editions of Narayan's books. Incidentally, the authentic edition is printed at the Diocesan Press, Madras.

NCERT TO MARKET 204 TEXTBOOKS

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will market 204 textbooks and workbooks in both Hindi and English in the current academic year.

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

The 38th six-day Frankfurt Book Fair, scheduled for October 1986, will have India as its main theme. The spotlight on the Indian sub-continent is to create an awareness of its books and literature, according to Mr. Ulrich Bechler, who heads the International Department of the Frankfurt Authority.

Talking about the Fair, he said in New Delhi that 7,000 accredited journalists will focus on India through their writings. The participation of Indian publishers is increasing and the Fair will sponsor small Indian publishers who do not have the means to make it on their own.

Fifteen to 20 Indian writers will participate in a literary symposium to be held two days before the Fair. The discussion, mainly in one of the Indian languages, will be featured on radio, television and the news media. A book will later be compiled on the symposium.

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There will be two book exhibitions. One will feature books printed and published in India and the other will highlight books on India published outside the country.

It will, however, be a publishers' fair. It will give them full opportunities to get to know one another and to buy and sell rights.

GERMAN MARKET FOR THIRD WORLD BOOKS

A Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature has been set up in West Germany to monitor literary trends and select the best examples of writing from these countries for translation into German, and to promote this literature in the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland and Austria by assisting to establish contacts between publishers from the Third World and those in the German-speaking world, to serve as an information centre and clearing-house. The Society will also help establish and encourage a forum of debate about Third World literatures.

Further information about this venture can be had from :
Gesellschaft zur Forderung der,
Literatur aus Afrika, Asien and Lateinamerika,
P.O. Box 2404,
6000 Frankfurt 1,
West Germany BRD

INDO-SOVIET TEXTBOOK PROGRAMME

The USSR has offered to give translation/reprint rights for a number of books under the Joint Indo-Soviet Textbook Programme. Expert opinion has indicated that these books will fill the gaps existing in the university level textbooks. Those interested in availing of this facility may approach V.A.A.P. (USSR Copyright Agency), 6 A Bolshaya Brounaya Street, Moscow-103104, endorsing a copy of their letter for information to the Ministry of Education, Special Officer (BP).

PHOTO CONTEST IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) is organizing the 10th (1985) Photo Contest in Asia and the Pacific with the aim of promoting mutual understanding and friendship as well as photographic activities among peoples in the region. The contest is supported by UNESCO, UNESCO member states in the region as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the Japan Economic Journal, the Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd., the Hattori Seiko Co., Ltd., the Japan Air Lines Co., Ltd., the Kodak Australia Pty., Ltd., the Nippon Kogaku K. K., the Okamoto Riken Gomu Co., Ltd., the Pakistan Television Corporation Ltd., the Photographic Society of Japan, the Seibu Department Store Ltd., the Sunpak Corporation, and the Tokyo Koishikawa Rotary Club.

Both professional and amateur photographers in the region can participate in the contest. Entries for the contest, which will have 'Happiness' for its theme, should be independent prints in monochrome or colour. They should not be in a set or in slide form., be neither larger than 10-12 inches (25-30 cm) nor smaller than 8-10 inches (20-25 cm)., be pasted on the back of each print, with the prescribed entry form bearing, in block letters, the name, address and nationality of the entrant together with the title of the work.

The entry form is obtainable from the National Commissions for UNESCO concerned. The entries should not exceed eight in number per entrant. They should be accompanied by a list (showing name of the country,

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names and postal addresses of entrants, and titles of works) in case entries are submitted collectively by an intermediary body.

Further information can be had from UNESCO National Commissions or the ACCU.

CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR, BOLOGNA

The 22nd Bologna Children's Book Fair, which closed on March 31, had 18,200 visitors—1,700 from abroad—1,036 exhibitors, 129 Italian, and 407 foreign. The publications on display at the fair, and available for marketing, ranged over the school and extra-scholastic sectors. In the first of these, trends showed complete adaptation and, in many cases, anticipation of the orientations of the expected reforms in the school sector (for example, the presence of texts supplementary to those of the curriculum, inter-disciplinary criteria and various other suggestions).

In the extra-scholastic sector, a great increase was noted in books for the very young, especially in the United States, Canadian and Spanish areas.

SOVIET BOOK FESTIVAL

A Grand Festival of Soviet Books was inaugurated by Mr Viswa Bandhu Gupta, M.P., in New Delhi on May 4 to mark the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Union over fascism in World War II.

The festival was organized by the Soviet trade association, V/O Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga, in cooperation with its leading partners, USSR Book Centre, New Delhi.

The exhibits comprised books, newspapers and magazines, gramophone records and postage stamps.

PAPERS ON BUDDHISM RELEASED

Prof. P. C. Mukherjee, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, released in Delhi recently a book containing papers on the literature of Buddhism presented at the Korosi Csoma bicentenary seminar held in New Delhi in April.

Prof. Mukherjee said Korosi Csoma was a remarkable personality whose "life was indeed a wonderful odyssey that is a joy to recall and salute". Today he is remembered with respect and reverence in both India and Hungary.

Prof. Lokesh Chandra, M.P., Prof. Maurya, Head of the Department of Modern European Languages, Delhi University, the editor of the book, Mrs. Margit Koves, and Mr. Gyula Csak, Director of the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, spoke on the occasion.

ISLAMIC CULTURAL TREASURES

Akademische Druck-und, Verlagsanstalt, Graz, Austria, has been publishing for more than 30 years facsimile editions of manuscripts from all lands and cultures in order to preserve them from deterioration, make their contents generally available and preserve them for future generations. It is now looking for partners who will help it to develop business in the Arab world. Those interested in the worldwide distribution of *Dala il al-khayrat*, a 17th century MS, may write to the Akademische for documentation.

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NEW BOOKS FROM USSR

THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE AND OUR TIME.
pp. 264, Rs. 5.25
Forty years have passed since the end of the Second World War unleashed by the most reactionary and aggressive forces of imperialism. The world historic victory over Nazi Germany and militarist Japan serves as a reminder to those who ignore lessons of history. This collection of articles is devoted to the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. Contributors to this collection, eminent Soviet scholars and military and political leaders, analyse the causes, course and outcome of the war, the sources of the Soviet people's strength, show the significance of their victory for all mankind. The authors expose the bourgeois falsifiers of history who are trying to diminish the Soviet Union's decisive role in the defeat of the aggressors. They also analyse the present-day international situation and show how the Soviet Union and all the peace-loving forces are struggling for peace and against the threat of nuclear war forced by imperialism.

PASSWORD VICTORY (1941-1945 Great Patriotic War)
Vol. I., pp. 488.
Vol. II, pp. 422, Rs. 30/-per set.
This two-volume edition, Password 'Victory', dedicated to the Soviet people's struggle against fascism during the Second World War, has been prepared by Raduga Publishers for the 40th anniversary of V-Day. It authors were war participants and eye-witnesses of the battle against Nazi invaders. Among them are prominent Soviet writers—Mikhail Sholokov, Alexei Tolstoy, Knostantin Simonov, Nikolai Tikhnov and Alexander Fadeyev—and top Soviet military commanders—Zhukov, Vassilevsky, Rokossovsky and Konev.

A SOLDIER'S DUTY
K. Rokossovsky
(Marshal of the Soviet Union)
pp. 342, Rs. 8.75
Konstantin Rokossovsky holds a special place of honour in the galaxy of Soviet generals. Rokossovsky's martial skills blossomed in the Great Patriotic War. He began as a commander of the corps and was a commander of the front within a year. His troops foughtt effectively in many major battles—near Moscow, Stalingrad and Kursk, in Byelorussia, East Prussia, and Pomerania.

THE YEAR OF VICTORY
pp. 248, Rs. 6.50
This book by Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev is the story of the last few months of the 2nd World War. He gives a vivid, fascinating account of the large-scale offensive of the Soviet troops, makes a scrupulous analysis of the strategic and operational situation of those days, describes many prominent commanders, and shows the great moral strength of the Soviet soldiers.

Razanov, H.
BEHIND THE SCENES OF THIRD REICH DIPLOMACY
pp. 195, Rs. 3.75
H. Razanov, Doctor of History, describes the concluding stage of the Second World War when, having lost all hope of victory, the Third Reich leaders tried to split the ranks of the anti-Hitler coalition. The use of documentary and research material combined with an easily readable style, makes this book interesting and attractive for the general reader.

SOVIET PEACE EFFORTS ON THE EVE OF WORLD WAR-II
pp. 588, Rs. 7.50
The documents tell of the persistent Soviet efforts to create a common front in defence of peace and of the policies of the Western ruling circles in the thirties, striving to channel the fascist aggression against the Soviet Union.

LIBERATION MISSION OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
pp. 447, Rs. 22.50
This monograph is devoted to the liberation by the Soviet Armed Forces of the European and Asian peoples enslaved by fascism. It is a collective work by experts from the Institute of Military History of the USSR Ministry of Defence.

Koblyakov. I.
USSR: FOR PEACE AGAINST AGGRESSION 1933-1941
pp. 248, Rs. 5.00
The author is a historian on the staff of the USSR Foreign Ministry. He sets out an array of facts, drawn mostly from the archives, to get at the origins of the Second World War. The author considers the initial period of the Second World War, and Soviet-German relations in 1940-1941. He provides convincing facts to show that, within two-year respite, Soviet foreign policy paved the way to the establishment of the anti-Hitler coalition between the USSR, Britain and the USA, which led to the defeat of fascism.

Mikhail A. & Others
MEN AT WAR
pp. 425, Rs. 10.55
The book includes three stories by popular Soviet writers on the events of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union against Nazi Germany, on patriotism, the moral staunchness and courage of the Soviet people.

Pavel Sevostyanov
BEFORE THE NAZI INVASION
pp. 304, Rs. 7.50
Proceeding from a wealth of facts

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and figures the author examines Soviet foreign policy at the beginning of World War-II laying bare bourgeois falsification of the history of Soviet diplomacy at the period.

Ponomarev. B.

AGAINST THE THREAT OF ANOTHER WORLD WAR

pp. 269, Rs. 3.50

The book is a selection of articles and speeches of Boris Ponomarev, prominent member of the Soviet Communist Party leadership and statesman. The author presents the Soviet point of view and sets forth the guidelines of the country's foreign policy of peace and international cooperation.

WHENCE THE THREAT TO PEACE

pp. 100, Rs. 8.00

The present, third edition of WHENCE THE THREAT TO PEACE is not intened as polemic with Pentagon and NATO propaganda scribes. Its aim is to comment on the new developmens in the international situation, the state of the American war machine, and US and NATO military strategy that has emerged in the two years.

Chazov. Y. and others

NUCLEAR WAR: THE MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES

pp. 250, Rs. 3.25

The book gives a detailed analysis of the biological and medical consequences of a nuclear war. It also gives, as a conclusion, our duties and responsibilities to prevent such a holocaust.

Berezhkov. V.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

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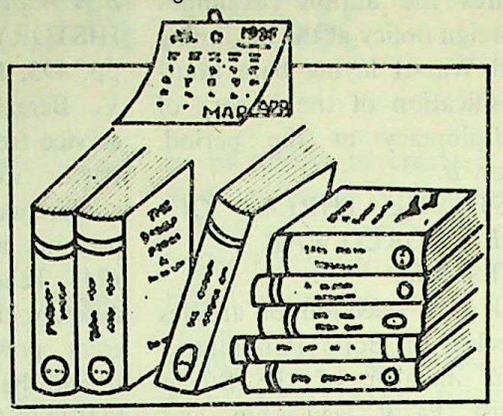

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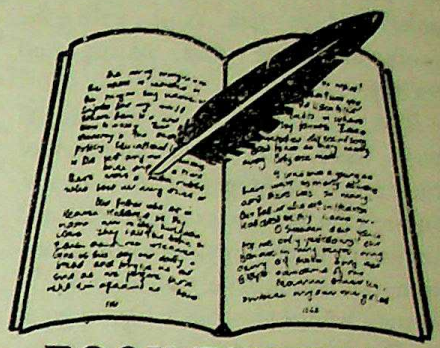

BOOK REVIEWS

A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF INDIA: Vol. IX, The Consolidation of British Rule in India, by K.K. Datta and V.A. Narain (eds), People's Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, 960 pp, Rs. 250.

The period 1818 to 1858 was a complex and controversial one in Indian history. It marked not only the satisfaction of the British desire for conquests in South Asia (by the annexation of Assam, Awadh, Burma, Punjab and Sindh) and for subordination of the Indian States (in Rajasthan and Gujarat, as well as in the central and southern parts of the country), but also the heightening of the British urge for the consolidation of their rule (by reforming the civil service, the judicial administration and the educational system) and for the utilization of their governing position (through the new policies of revenue, finance, trade, industry and public works).

While thus converting India into a colonial state against the background of a sweeping industrial movement in Britain, the British in India revealed in their demeanour a contradiction between the trends of Benthamite utilitarianism and the influences of episcopal evangelicalism, between the enthusiasm for modernising India and the disdain for almost everything Indian.

Sponsored by the Indian History Congress, and written by some of our distinguished scholars of yesterday and today, this volume reviews authoritatively, and interestingly, a very significant phase of India's past from various angles—political, military, socio-economic and literary.

NORTHEAST REGION: Problems and Prospects of Development, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, 1984, 361 pp., Rs. 160, US $20, UK £13.

The Northeast region has been in turmoil for a long time. The problem of insurgency in Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram, the ethnic explosion throughout the region, and the problem of increasing infiltration across the Northeast border and the more recent struggle launched by the student leadership of Assam which, though non-violent in character, has matched in scale, intensity and social and political impact the national freedom movement—all these have made the region a special focus of attention for the nation.

A five-day seminar on the Problems and Prospects of Development was a major academic activity undertaken by the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, and underlined the Centre's sensitivity to issues of national importance.

The transactions of the seminar, reported in this volume, provide an insight into the nature of the problems, their magnitude and the more immediate and long-term prospects of development. The active participation of the All-Assam Student Unions and All-Assam Gana Sangaram Parishad in the seminar presents the rationale of the Assam struggle and the need to resolve it in the wider national interest. The proceedings also reveal the dangerous consequences that lie ahead if ad hoc descriptive diagnoses are treated as sacrosanct and accepted as possible solutions of the issues raised.

PROBLEMS OF FUTUROLOGY by V. Narayan Karan Reddy, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 1985, 176 pp., Rs. 90

Futurology as a major discipline of modern knowledge has today assumed the status of an international movement. About 50 countries

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including India and over 1000 organisations are engaged in probing the future in the light of the present to determine how planners and policy-makers can cope with the problems facing man, nature and society.

The present work deals with several basic issues vital to the survival of humanity: anticipatory democracy, future education, social futurism and taming of technology, focussing attention on the infinite potentialities of human beings to achieve higher goals in life. It examines the profiles of the future depicted by Alvin Toffler, Margaret Mead, Herman Kahn, Daniel Bell, Fred Polak, Bestuzhev-Lada, Sri Aurobindo, and M.S. Iyengar in the context of contemporary social and national events.

A whole chapter is devoted to a study of futurism in classical Indian philosophy and an attempt made to draw parallelisms of thought between Eastern and Western trends in future prediction to arrive at a cogent and synthetic flow of ideas.

INDIAN CHRISTIANS: SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AND STRUGGLE FOR AUTONOMY, by A. Mathias Mundadan, 1984, Dharmaram Publications, Bangalore, 224 pp, price not mentioned.

The different Christian communities of India, whether of ancient or recent origin, have been, each in its own way, in the process of developing an identity and selfhood. This process is an ongoing one and has assumed new dimensions in independent India. One major preoccupation of thinking of Indian Christians in the past, and in an even more intense form today, has been how to help effectively the emergence of a real Indian Church of Indian people, sensitive both to the country's cultural and spiritual past and to the needs of modern secular India. This quest took the form of a struggle when this identity and selfhood were challenged and even threatened by outside forces. It is from this perspective that Dr. A. M. Mundadan—who has devoted many years to the study and teaching of the history of Indian Christianity—analyses and evaluates the major currents of Indian Christian history.

THE DICE-PLAY IN SANSKRIT LITERATURE by C. Panduranga Bhatta, Amar Prakashan, Delhi, 1985, 145pp, Rs. 100.

Since Vedic and epic times down to historical periods the dice-play has been one of the most alluring pastimes of citybred youth. The very nature of the play has however remained almost unknown even to specialists. Eminent Indologists hold different views regarding details of the dice-play. For the first time, an attempt has now been made to give a sustainable account of it, gathering material from far-flung sources.

The book is a comprehensive survey and study of the dice-play on the basis of all available Sanskrit literature, from the Rig-veda up to the 8th century AD.

The good and bad aspects of gambling, occasions for playing at dice, technical terms of the dice-play, the rules governing the game, the gambling house and punishment and penalty for defaulters, tax-policy and disputes arising from the play are presented in detail. Considerable attention has been paid to the practical side of the game, the equipment and the technique.

The book also provides insights into how the game was prohibited, encouraged, curtailed and tolerated down the centuries. The relationship between chess and caturanga and the dice-play is discussed, throwing much light on the changes the dice-play has undergone from time to time.

TRADING IN LANGUAGE: The Story of English in India, by Tulsi Ram, GDK Publications, Delhi, 364, Rs. 60.

The story of English in India is a story of both success and failure. As an article of trade and political domination, it has succeeded brilliantly—we remain divided on the national language question till today. As a medium of education, says the author, it has failed miserably—the failure is too obvious to need any proof. And on the basis of this record, one may even hazard a prediction. So long as English remains acceptable on political grounds alone, it will fail as a language of education and national communication. The dominance of English will continue to mark the Indian national vacuum in thinking and performance. This vacuum will have to be filled sooner than later in the interest of education and democracy, if democracy is to mean coherence in a creative interaction between the individual and the collective consciousness of the country. English, however, should continue to be studied as an important language, not as a substitute for education but for specific educational purposes of national relevance.

ASAF ALI: Patriot and Humanist by Sudhir Pant, National Book Trust, New Delhi, 1984, 63pp., Rs 12.

Asaf Ali was, along with such illustrious personalties as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, M.A. Ansari and Hakim Ajmal Khan, among the patriotic Indian Muslims prominent in public life who rejected the concept of nationhood based on religion and thus helped in laying the foundations of the secular and democratic Republic of India.

In the words of his wife, Aruna, herself a freedom fighter and heroine of the 1942 Movement, Asaf Ali was "a many-sided personality—scholar, lawyer, nationlist, writer and connoisseur of music and the arts—a remarkable product of the encounter between, and synthesis of, Hindu and Islamic cultures, and of Indian and Western values." This first biography throws light on the multiple facets of Asaf Ali's personality.

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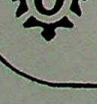

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RAMESH GOVIL*

Single Textbooks or Multiple Textbooks?

The use of only one text material (one textbook) for teaching had started after independence when the Central Government and State Governments decided to introduce nationalized textbooks. This decision was taken in view of the educational expansion in the country that had taken place in the wake of independence and the consequent necessity to cater to the needs of students for textbooks at various levels. It was felt that the private publishing industry was not well equipped to deliver the goods and that such a gigantic work could not be left to chance as it was a constitutional responsibility of the Government. Consequently, SCERT's and NCERT had come into existence so that proper research in textbook material could be undertaken at various levels. It was also felt that the capital and financial burden was beyond the means of private enterprise and that Government should make available adequate funds for this important task. No doubt, the introduction of one text material and establishment of textbook bureaus were prompted by high idealism and practical needs. But after putting the system into practice, it was found that it was not working in a satisfactory manner.

One of the main consequences of nationalization of textbooks was the elimination of multiple choice for the teacher. One textbook was prescribed for one subject for one class all over a State or for an examination system. Irrespective of their social, geographical and educational background, all children of a particular class all over a State studied the same book, were fed the same quota of knowledge or skill and were expected to march towards their educational goal.

It is a fact that children have different capabilities, different needs and different potentials. One prescribed textbook within a system must necessarily aim at the average in attainment and assure an average standard in the capacity for learning. It is, however, common knowledge that schools within a system or even a city or a town vary enormously in their character, in the background of their children and in the ability of their teachers. This wide variation must be acknowledged and respected.

Nationalized textbooks, argues the author, have failed to serve the main purpose of the educational process to develop the full potential of the child. By limiting the choice of teaching material to a single textbook, the teacher and the taught are deprived of better material that in a multiple textbook situation would sustain the interest of children with different backgrounds and capacities.

Nationalized textbooks by their very nature and objective failed to serve the main purpose of the educational process to develop the educational potential of a child to the fullest possible extent. Having cleared the field of competition they laid claim to the distinction of being the best, the only tools of education. No matter if the brighter child found some of the books slow and dull, no matter if the urban or the rural child found some of the situations incomprehensible, no matter if the teacher found the approach of the lessons unsuitable for his particular situation or a trifle unimaginative, the nationalized prescribed textbooks left no option open. Thus, these books have laid themselves open to the worst possible charge in the educational process, that of pedagogic arrogance, of knowing what is best for every situation. A particularly dangerous attitude since in education what is best is relative only to individuals and particular situations and no approach or method can claim to be the absolute answer.

Let us assume for the sake of argument that nationalized textbooks have proved better than the counterparts they have supplanted. How has this come about ? The answer lies mainly in the vast organization that is the NCERT and State Institute of Eduction. It is a pity that their knowledge and expertise, promoted at public expense, should be available to serve the purpose of a closed shop. It is arguable that although these bodies may be in a

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position to hire the best talent in the country in the field of educational research, they may not always have the services of the best textbook writers. Good textbook writers can add just that bit of imagination and creativity to transform sound methodology into a good textbook, which stimulates the mind of the child as it imparts knowledge. It is strange that results of research cannot be made available to every textbook writer, so that a number of good textbooks meeting different needs can be produced.

It has been frequently argued that nationalized textbooks are cheaper. So they are because such factors as overheads and costs are a public charge. Also, monopoly guarantees economies of large print runs and low distribution costs. One doubts very much that if these factors are removed, the books could be published at such subsidized prices.

The main argument, however, centres upon the disadvantages of a monopoly in a particularly sensitive area like education. Any reasonable person will not dispute that there is need to lay down a syllabus and that there is need for quality control in teaching material handed out to the teachers. However, when it is proposed that there exists a single teaching method and that a prescribed book should be regarded as the only possible teaching material for a subject at a certain level, an educated mind must register some revulsion. It is not possible to supply each school with prototypes of one single teacher, trained and approved by Governments. Teachers are, and should be, individuals however much training they may have undergone. We would react with horror if all teachers were copybook replicas of one another. Why then should we not be equally perturbed by the prospect of only one book taught in school, after school, year after year?

The teaching-learning process depends equally on the initiative of the teacher and the taught. In a multiple textbook situation it has often been found that a child who is not satisfied with the book the teacher is teaching in a class, goes to other textbooks for a more attractive or more challenging presentation. In fact, we know of schools which prescribe the nationalized textbook but also make the children buy and teach a second and more attractive textbook to sustain their interest.

It is not enough to say, as Government spokesmen have suggested from time to time, that nationalization should continue in textbooks in languages, mathematics and history and multiple textbooks should be permitted in other subjects. Such a view is a misreading of the basic issue. The choice is between compulsory acceptance and free choice, a regimented educational development and recognition of a diversity of the learner's background, interests and ability', the choice between the teacher's exercise of judgement being forestalled and its being encouraged. Let alone the child, what sort of teachers do we have in mind if we propose to rob them of their basic responsibility of deciding what is best for the children they are teaching?

One has noticed that in the nationalized textbooks the methodology aspect has been given a special prominence. A lot of importance is also attached to the content, its quantum, its desirability and its correctness. It is agreed that any textbook should ensure that these two aspects are very important. However, these are the objective factors; much more remains to be put into a textbook. The manner of presentation of textbook material requires a lot of imagination and creativity, methods of stimulating independant thought, and an attitude of questioning, of keeping the mind open to receive new ideas. These constitute the difference between a correct but unattractive textbook and a correct and attractive textbook. That is why a good teacher looks at a number of textbooks before deciding on his approach to teaching a particular lesson. Good schools rely heavily on a well-appointed textbooks library. There may be six textbooks there on physics for a particular class level and one of these may be much better written than the others, although all may be accurate in their content. It wouid be a great pity if the concept of one prescribed textbook for all schools stopped the constant effort to publish better books than are already available. Schools go on trying out different books over the years. If they have settled on one for a few years, a better book may yet replace the present choice. As the character of student enrolment changes, the teachers find it necessary to change textbooks. The human spirit operates best when it is free, when it is able to choose. Take away from the teacher and the child the possibility of choice, and education will be a lifeless process.

It is good to be modest when such fundamental issues are involved. Our national ideal is unity in diversity, not unity in uniformity. Let us concede that multiplicity admits of choice and choice asserts judgement, discrimination and originality. The moment we eliminate multiplicity, we deny our teaching community any of these intellectual qualities and reduce them to robots performing mean tasks. If we deny choice to our children they will grow up to be tyrants, taking away choice from others. If from positions of authority we proclaim that we know what is best for everybody, are't we giving a very dangerous turn to the nation's thoughts?

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A. MACHWE

Pre-publication Evaluation of Textbooks*

In a recent survey we made an interesting discovery. While most educational publishers in the country continued to add between 10 and 30 per cent new titles to their lists, each year, a little over 70 per cent of the teachers contacted by us maintained that they still did not have the right texts. There could be several reasons for this state of affairs, but an important one is that proper pre-publication evaluation of textbooks is rarely done. This conclusion was to an extent validated when further investigation revealed that a majority of decisions to publish were based on one or more of the following factors:

— Author's name and standing in the field;
— No book in the publisher's list on the topic;
— Large enrolment area;
— Publisher's or author's hunch; and
— Anticipated changes in syllabus

As a result books were being published without any bearing on the reader's needs. In the absence of systematic evaluation of proposals, textbook publishing is increasingly becoming expedient and opportunistic publishing. The emphasis is shifting from the need to create an inventory of useful material to liquidating inventory of a large quantity of mediocre material.

For a good number of obvious reasons there is now an urgent need to question the need for another book. Further, the present trend of publishing textbooks by accident or default needs to be checked and the only way in which this can be done is through a well-structured pre-publication evaluation of textbook proposals.

Instead of elaborating on why evaluation is essential, I would like to share with you my experience of how it can be improved.

Despite the tremendous increase in the number of textbooks published in India, there is scarcity of right material. This is largely due to the fact that publishing of textbooks is influenced by considerations other than reader interest. The solution of the problem lies in evolving a pre-publication evaluation criteria for textbooks.

For pre-publication evaluation of textbooks a clear statement of the objectives of evaluation is essential. In the absence of a clear definition of purpose evaluators tend to look at proposals either segmentally or, worse still, adopt a safe approach by restricting their comments to safe areas. As a result, decisions are made either on the "lowest common denominator" considerations, such as enabling students to acquire minimum marks in examinations, or raising irrelevant issues.

To an extent our educational system is responsible for subordinating understanding of the subject matter to obtaining pass marks in examinations. But, on the other hand, widespread availability of examination-oriented textbooks or non-availability of a choice of textbooks contributes to perpetuating the angularities in the system. Somewhere this vicious circle has to be broken.

Even though it is not quite correct to generalise, evaluation criteria for specific proposals can be evolved around the following issues :

(a) Does the proposed book add to the existing literature?

Evaluation must clearly bring out the shortcomings and limitations, in terms of both form and content, in the available literature and through examples demonstrate how the proposed book is better.

(b) Coverage of topic or subject

Since most students neither have the inclination nor can they easily afford to purchase several books, the

*Being the text of a paper presented at an NCERT Seminar in March 1985.

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coverage of a topic or subject should be complete in itself. In evaluating coverage the reviewer must also critically examine the relevance of coverage and the manner in which difficult-to-understand concepts are handled by the author.

(c) Knowledge level

A proposed textbook should take into account the knowledge level of students and also aim at dovetailing with a more advanced course on the same subject. Therefore, evaluation must be based on the preceding and the higher level textbooks on the same topic.

(d) Treatment of subject

Of particular relevance is the manner in which concepts and theory are handled. Wherever applicable, concepts need to be illustrated and backed with examples. The treatment should be integrative, i.e., it should try and assist students in relating one discipline with another in a real life situation. On the other hand, the treatment should not be mechanical, something should be left to the imagination of students, e.g., deviation of formula.

(e) Style and syntax

An author is generally unable to improve upon any shortcomings in language. While a feedback should be given improvements are usually possible at the editing stage.

(f) Figures, diagrams and illustrations

In textbooks the quality of artwork makes a great deal of difference. Disproportionate, incomplete and badly made figures can destroy an otherwise good text. Apart from the quality of drawings a reviewer should closely examine the relationship between figures and the text and suggest deletion of redundant figures and addition of figures, etc., which will enable a better comprehension of the subject.

(g) To what extent does the proposal meet the requirements of the syllabus?

Requirements of syllabus and written according to syllabus are two vastly different aspects. While the former is desirable, undue emphasis on the latter can destroy a good proposal.

(h) The extent to which the material in the book takes into account recent trends and developments in the field.

(i) Will it be possible to price the book within the reach of students on an optimum print run ?

The overlap in some of the evaluation issues is deliberate. The purpose is to ensure that, as far as possible, opinions expressed by the reviewer are validated. Another aim is to provide sufficient feedback to the author and the publisher to enable them to justify the need for another book.

Pre-publication evaluation criteria can also be applied to existing books at regular intervals. Such evaluation will throw up additions, deletions and other changes that are necessary in the book so that revision is done before the book is reprinted or reissued.

Pre-publication evaluation of textbooks is necessary at various stages. To begin with, the outline and the proposed table of contents must be examined. This will enable the author and the publisher to determine the framework for producing a useful text. Thereafter a few chapters with sample art work should be reviewed against the framework already decided. At this stage, i.e., after a few chapters are ready, the original scope and purpose of the proposed book may undergo slight changes. This process may have to be repeated several times before the manuscript is completed. This is also the right stage to give feedback to the author on his style of presentation. The final manuscript should be evaluated, if possible, by one more reviewer to ascertain that the book is suitable for publication.

Evaluators have a crucial role to play in developing a good textbook. While it is difficult to lay down guidelines for identifying a good reviewer, our experience has been that :

(a) Publishers themselves are not good reviewers. A large number of publishers suffer from the delusion that they know what is needed. This can be most misleading.

(b) An author or a potential author of a similar book has definite ideas and he or she may not be in a position to contribute to developing a better book.

(c) The evaluator must be an expert in the subject and must have reasonable experience of teaching the subject at the level at which the book is aimed. Additional experience of teaching at a higher level will be an asset.

(d) The reviewer must have a good command of the language in which the textbook is written.

(e) The reviewer must have the time and the inclination for taking up evaluation work.

It is said that we publish the third largest number of books (in the English language) in the world. But it is rarely recognised that we also publish a lot of junk and substandard material. Most publishers are able to sell what they publish, but this is more because of non-availability of alternative material at a comparable price. Unlike creative writing, in the development of textbook evaluation evaluators have a very important role.

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P.A. MOHANRAJAN

Soviet University-level Textbooks in Indian Education*

In the USSR publishing, like the other mass media, is in a sense a cultural, and, more specifically, an ideological activity. The State Committee for Publishing, Printing and the Book Trade of the USSR Council of Ministers is often classified as an organ of cultural organisation, alongside the Ministry of Culture, the State Committee for Television and Radio, the State Committee for Cinematography, and the Committee for Physical Culture and Sport. To a much greater degree than the other mass media, however, Soviet publishing depends on considerable industrial capacity to fulfil its cultural and ideological purposes. In 1975 over 83,000 books and pamphlet volumes in nearly 1.7 thousand million copies were issued.

In a socialist society, the value of a book is maintained and hence of a publishing house's production is determined basically by its ideological content. In the USSR, demand and profitability are not allowed to be the sole guides in the matter of publication of books, otherwise highly specialised works and books in minority languages would never appear. Publishing is a branch of 'non-material production', and its economics cannot be compared directly with those of a manufacturing industry.

Profit and loss are not admitted to be overriding considerations in Soviet publishing. Efficient economic performance by publishing houses is however frequently stressed, and profitability is one of the yardsticks used to assess it. Profitability has received increased emphasis since the publishing industry began to adopt the new planning and incentive system at the end of the 1960s.

Publishing in the USSR is an ideological activity which forms part of its social and economic plans. The author describes the publishing setup in the USSR with particular reference to the production of textbooks, the procedure adopted for commissioning of authors, evaluation of manuscripts and their submission to the Education Ministry for approval.

In the planning and issue of textbooks, the publishing houses work in close association with the union and republic education ministries, which prepare five-year publication plans for textbooks to support all existing and proposed courses. In working out these plans, publishers normally commission authors to write textbooks for the specific courses required by the ministries, with the incentive of prizes of up to 5000r. For supplementary textbooks recourse is had to proposals initiated by authors, although such proposals must be approved by the appropriate education ministry on the publishing house's recommendation.

At least two external refrees' reports must be obtained by the publishing house for manuscripts of textbooks before the education ministry considers granting formal approval for the textbook to be published for use in a particular course of study. One report must be the work of a specialist of high standing in the subject concerned, and the other must be made 'collectively' by a group of specialists in, for example, a university department. The choice of refrees must be confirmed by the education ministry from which approval for the textbook is sought. In the case of university textbooks it is the usual practice, in addition, for separate chapters or entire manuscripts to be considered at meetings of university staff, and for preliminary reports to be obtained from the staff in the author's faculty who have not taken part in writing

*Excerpts from a paper presented by Dr. P.A. Mohanrajan, Librarian, University of Madras, at the Seminar on the Role of Soviet Books in Indian Institutions organised by the USSR Book Centre at Madras on October 5, 1984.

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the work, before the manuscript is sent to the publisher. The norms for editorial work by the publishing house staff on the manuscripts of textbooks allow more editorial time to be spent on them than on any other type of material.

A textbook manuscript finally presented by the publisher to an education ministry for its confirmation may then be sent by the ministry for further comments if there is a divergence of views among the original referees. Criticism after publication may cause the permission to be withdrawn. After A.E. Furman's textbook, *The Dialectical Conception of the Development of Modern Biology*, published by Vysshaya Shkola in 1974, was attacked in the party journal *Communist* for 'dis-orienting students in their evaluation of erroneous concepts that have been rejected,' the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education issued an order withdrawing its permission from the work and instructing its department of social science teaching to intensify supervision of the literature for which it was responsible. The education ministry's permission is required before the author can receive his fee, which is paid in addition to his salary even where a textbook has been prepared in the course of his employment. The fee is paid on the basis of the length of the work agreed to in the contract and not the published length, as in the case of other types of book. Some concern has been expressed over the tendency to inflate the size of textbooks. Nearly a quarter of a sample reported on by the State Committee for Publishing in 1973 were found to be 'too long' and a special commission was set up in 1975 to reduce the average size by fixing maximum lengths.

The economics of textbook publishing are affected by the very low retail prices set for such material, the enormous edition sizes and multiple reissuing required for some titles in contrast with the small printings for some national minorities, and the frequent textual alterations demanded that necessitate new editions or entirely new books. Textbooks in Russian for the first to the tenth class, eighty-four titles in all, were in 1972 said to have a total retail price of 28.18r., an average of only 33k. per book. Prosveshchenie, the principal publisher of school textbooks in Russian, issues them in an average edition size of two million copies, and in 1974 made a profit of 14.8 million roubles from sales of about 95 million roubles from textbooks in colour, which are adversely affected by the price structure. Prosveshchenie for 1971-5 contained 2,011 new titles and 1,455 reissues.

Out of the books and pamphlets issued in 1975, 72.4 per cent of volumes dealt with subjects in natural sciences, mathematics, technology, agriculture or medicine. 66.5 per cent of all non-fictional volumes treated topics in the same fields. The small and highly specialised readership for many of these works is reflected in the very low average edition sizes for scholarly scientific and technical publications, which fell from 5,100 copies to 1,800 copies between 1955 and 1969, and to 1,416 copies in 1975. With such low edition sizes, many scientific and technical publications bring a loss to the publisher, despite the provision in the retail pricing structure allowing the price of small-edition scholarly works to be raised as high as 5k. per sixteen printed pages in order to avoid a loss. Three-quarters of the books and pamphlets issued by scientific literature comprised 36.7 per cent of all book copies reaching the book trade.

Until the USSR adhered to the universal copyright convention in 1973, the translation by the Soviet Publishing House of books from foreign countries was the subject of international copyright protection only in a few instances where the countries concerned had concluded bilateral copyright agreements with the USSR, although agreements on the translation of individual works could be, and often were, concluded. The Soviet legislation introduced in 1973 to conform to the requirements of the UGC now lays down that any translation, and any subsequent publication of it may normally be made only with the permission of the author or his assigned subject to payment and under conditions stipulated in a contract, for the duration of the period of copyright protection.

Article 46 of the Soviet Constitution states that "Citizens of the USSR have the right to enjoy cultural benefits". This right is ensured by broad access to the cultural treasures of their own land and of the world that are preserved in state and other public collections by the development and fair distribution of culture and educational institutions throughout the country; by developing television and radio broadcasting and extending the publishing of books, newspapers and periodicals, and by extending the free library service; and by expanding cultural exchanges with other countries.

Soviet book publishing is international in character. The statistics produced by UNESCO show that the USSR leads the world in translated literature. The USSR published nine times as many translated books as the UK, 4.5 times as many as Japan, four times as many as the USA. All the best and more progressive achievements of individual countries and nations are gathered into the world's cultural treasure-house.

Libraries and publishing share the same main tasks and lines of activity and come under a common programme and plans for the develop-

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ment of the socialist national economy, education and culture. This therefore requires that in the USSR there should be very close connections between, and continuity in, their activities.

One of the conditions for the gradual development of a socialist society is that account should be taken of all the excellent things that have been produced in the long history of the development of national and world culture.

The supply of books to libraries is regarded as an important element in book distribution, not only because of the educational and ideological functions ascribed to Soviet libraries, but also because libraries are seen as an effective means of making books available in conditions of shortage to as many as possible of those who wish to read them. *One hundred million roubles is said to be spent annually on books for libraries.*

Libraries as a whole in the USSR purchase about 20 per cent of the book trade's annual turnover. Approximately half of this proportion is acquired through the library supply agencies in Gsavkniga's trading organisation. These agencies work under contracts with libraries, usually on an annual basis, to supply titles ordered by them up to a specified expenditure limit, often with a percentage subjectwise breakdown. Smaller public libraries are obliged to spend a minimum proportion (50-60 per cent) of the book funds in transactions with the library supply agencies.

Beginning from 1973, a more distinct priority has been accorded to the library book provision by the introduction of editions for libraries only. Works are recommended for publication in library editions by the USSR Ministry of Culture, and are supposed to be sold only through library supply agencies. In 1975, 90 library editions totalling 9 million copies were planned for issue from the central publishers, and 250 more from other houses.

Publishing houses and printing works are required to provide the country's libraries, promptly and in full, with a certain number of free copies of the works they produce. This, however, is not the whole extent of the publishing system's contribution to building up the stocks of the major libraries. A great deal is done by the Goskomizdats of the USSR and the union republics to regulate the activity of organisations other than publishing houses that put out printed material. This ensures that libraries receive deposit copies of all the publications of the various ministries, government departments, social organisations and scientific groups.

Parallel with the centralised cataloguing, the Lenin State Library prepares an annotated printed card for the libraries. (A cataloguing system based on a similar structure is also being set up in the union republics). A copy of the annotated card has to be inserted by publishers in all editions intended for the public libraries.

India and the USSR agreed to undertake a Joint Indo-Soviet Textbook Programme in 1965. Under the programme, standard works in the sphere of higher education in different subject fields published in the USSR were to be made available in moderately priced editions for the use of Indian students. Only books approved by the Government of India are brought out under the programme. So far, about 407 titles approved by Indian experts have been published. The publication of these titles was undertaken in the USSR and the published books were marketed in India through normal trade channels.

A joint Indo-Soviet Board was constituted with the Secretary of the Union Ministry of Education as Chairman and ten members, five from the Soviet side, and five from the Indian side, to decide matters of policy regarding the translation, adaptation, publication and distribution of standard Soviet educational works in India. The Board meets periodically to review the progress of the programme from time to time and to decide measures to accelerate the programme. The meetings are held alternately in Moscow and Delhi.

Only those books which are found suitable from the standpoint of the Indian curriculam and approved by the Government of India are brought out under this programme. These books are moderately priced and are marketed in India through normal trade channels. So far 425 titles have been brought out.

Under the programme, the Soviet authorities send copies of their books to the Indian side from time to time. These are referred to subject experts for evaluation. Those Soviet titles which are approved by the experts panel are recommended by the Government of India and brought under the programme as low-priced editions. Apart from their suitability, the books selected have to meet the test that comparable books by Indian authors are not available. Only the latest editions of the selected titles are taken up for reprinting under the programme.

In the USSR, while books are published in Russian, English editions of selected works are also available. Till recently only those Soviet books which are available in English were considered for publication.

Training in translation techniques is one of the important adjuncts to the programme. Following a recommendation of the Board, the Soviet Government agreed to award scholarships to Indian scholars for training in the methodology of translation techniques as part of the cultural exchange programme, under the general scholarships scheme to aid the textbook programme.

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DOUGLAS PEARCE

Textbook Production in Developing Countries*

The author, who is a UNESCO expert and has wide experience in book development in Less Developed Countries, discusses some of the basic problems that have been met in the planning stage of the provision of textbooks in these countries.

Many of the problems that have occurred in Textbook Publishing Organizations (TPOs) in LDCs have apparently been related to insufficient research into what the real needs were and what resources were available to meet them. Lack of adequate planning has been a major contributor to the problems that have arisen later.

Government policies in certain matters (e.g. the language of instruction in schools; copyright; taxes and duty on imports of paper, printing materials, printing equipment, and books; export controls; internal trade; bank loans; operations within the country of foreign publishers and printers are vitally important to the planning and operations of TPOs. In some cases these policy matters have not been taken fully into account in the planning and operation of TPOs, and where there were pressing needs for changes to be made to assist the success of textbook publishing the needed changes have often not been made, or sometimes apparently even considered by governments.

It has been evident in almost all LDCs that there was a need to do something to improve the supply of textbooks. But in some cases there has not been enough thought given to whether the existing publishing organizations could be strengthened and expanded to meet the needs or whether new government TPOs should be started.

Few full-scale surveys have been made into what the long-term needs for textbooks and all other educational materials would be and what various methods of meeting them might be adopted. Much planning has been on a piecemeal basis without proper consideration being given to the various options that have been available to overcome the difficulties, or to the long-term overall problems involved.

An immediate need has often been seen for books in a particular subject or subjects at a certain level and as the required books were either not being produced, or not being produced satisfactorily, by the private sector at that time a decision has been made for government to make its own publishing arrangements, or to start its own TPO to meet the need. There has frequently been no thorough and close examination of why the needed books are not being produced and what the real problems of the existing organizations are. Sometimes private sector textbook publishing organizations have not even been consulted about their problems before governments have started their own TPOs.

It is very difficult for publishing to flourish in LDCs without considerable government support. Many of the books published are sold either to libraries or to students or schools. What is needed, and what has so seldom been available in LDCs is an overall book development plan and policy as part of a national development plan. The roles of government and the private sector need to be defined so that everyone will know where he stands. Schemes to produce textbooks through government TPOs should not be conceived on a piecemeal basis but as part of a plan to provide all of the books needed through lifelong education. Government

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agencies cannot produce all of the books required and if they are to publish at all they should define what they plan to do and what they intend to leave to the private sector to do. The private sector should be encouraged and assisted to play the largest role possible.

Finance and economic factors

TPOs involve substantial and long-term investment. It may take around six years to write a school textbook course and have it published and distributed. It is almost pointless to think of any TPO in terms of less than ten years of activity, as a large amount of research and planning is required before it can become fully operational and staff have first to be recruited, and often also trained. Some TPOs, particularly in government, have been established with the expectation that they will produce results quickly and those who have founded them have become impatient at the length of time it has taken to publish the first books, because they have not understood that publishing is a very slow and exacting process. Often there has not been finance over a sufficiently long period to assure that the organization gets soundly on its feet.

Some TPOs have had to work within government annual budgeting systems. It is almost impossible for a TPO to operate purely along these financial methods. It must have some funds which are not subject to being lost because they are not spent in the year in which they are provided. However well planning is done, it is not always possible to predict exactly when a manuscript will be finalized, and exactly how long it will be, or exactly how many copies will be needed when it is printed, or how many illustrations it will contain. There has to be some room for flexibility in the use of funds and some provision for unexpected factors.

Where TPOs are part of a government department and sell books, it has sometimes proved possible for the revenue from sales to be paid into a revolving fund which is used to meet publishing expenditures. This fund is supplemented occasionally by government until such time as revenue from sales equals expenditure—although this usually takes a good many years to achieve. But the best aim has proved to be for a completely separate existence for a government TPO and for it to be established as a statutory body, or limited liability company, or some other form of institutionalized existence, as many of its activities are very different from those of a government department and it needs an administrative structure and a financial system which will enable it to function fully effectively. It also needs to employ specialized staff and train them and retain them with a salary structure competitive with the private sector and with full career prospects.

Labour-intensive methods

Textbook programmes in government have not always been guided by purely educational requirements : government economic and industrial policies have also shaped their operations and have often demonstrated the need for inter-ministerial co-ordination and co-operation. In some countries, for instance, labour-intensive operations have been preferred to maintain maximum employment: book binding has been mainly manual (although it is sometimes done this way merely because it is cheaper) and this has produced lower standards of workmanship than machine binding and has affected the durability and life of books. Because of government policy to develop certain sections of the community, small printing firms (which have small printing machines) have sometimes been preferred, and this has meant that large machines which could produce the work more economically and quicker could not be used. Printing has sometimes been done locally and not overseas because of government policy, and costs have sometimes proved higher and standards of workmanship lower in consequence.

In planning TPOs vital questions have to be answered about the supply of books to students: should students be expected to buy books, and if so at what price?; if books are to be supplied free of charge, should there be one for every pupil, or one for every two (as in the Philippines) or more?; should the books remain in the care of the school or the student?; should the student be allowed to take them home? Wear and tear has often proved very great where students carry books backwards and forwards to school every day, and there certainly seems no reason why books for a whole year's work should be carried around all the time. Balancing educational needs against available funds has always proved to be a difficult task, and in some instances the wrong answers have meant that the schemes could not be expanded, or in some cases continued, because the provisions of books had been too generous in the first instance.

The Price factor

The true costs of providing books free of charge to students have seldom been known as there are so many hidden subsidies when books have been produced through many of the government TPOs that financial comparison with providing them in other ways has been difficult. Many countries have expressed strong feelings that students should be provided with books without charge, or at least those whose parents cannot afford them should receive them free.

Where books have been sold

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price has always been a very important factor and nearly always there have been some parents who could not afford to pay. Book prices have therefore acted as an inhibiting factor in school attendance. Where subsidies, or schemes to resell books or in other ways reduce prices, have been available, this has helped low-income parents and assisted in improving school attendance. Subsidies have been applied in various ways. Probably the most effective way has been when the subsidy has been used to meet part of the production costs, as these are usually multiplied by between three and five to arrive at the retail price, thus a subsidy applied to them may affect the retail price to a similar degree.

In some countries schemes to provide books free of charge to students, or at subsidized prices, have been abandoned because of economic difficulties or changes in government.

Language policies

Many LDCs have been faced with developing national and regional languages and switching from the use in education of the language of their former colonial rulers to a language of their own. This local language has often not been a developed language and new terminologies have had to be created in the various subject areas. In many countries there has been strong resistance to change in the language of education, and also many pressures to introduce new languages. These matters have created considerable problems for TPOs.

The use of a local language often restricts the number of copies of a book that can be produced and thus increases the unit cost and the published price. Where several editions of a book have to be produced in different regional languages, the costs become higher per copy than they would be for one edition to meet the total needs. In some cases new orthographies and also the need for special typefaces have caused considerable problems for printers and publishers.

In some countries language may be a barrier to learning. Where regional languages are used a teacher may come from one region, the students from many regions, and the book may be in a language which is foreign to them all.

Modern scientific books often become out of date before they appear in print. Particularly at the tertiary level of education, the LDCs are largely dependent on translating books published in the DCs to meet their needs. Translating, editing and printing take a very long time even in the best organized TPOs and the difficulty of producing up-to-date books is enormous.

Thus, when deciding on the language to be used in textbooks, the full and proper consideration of the difficulties that would be encountered has proved very important.

It is not always understood that considerable resources in skilled staff are required to carry out the translation of textbooks. Translators have to be found, and often also given further training, and the publisher's editor needs to have complete mastery of the language of the books he is working on. Sometimes everything has been left to unskilled translators and their work has been neither checked nor edited.

Life of books

Because of the restricted market for books in regional languages commercial publishers have often preferred to publish in languages which will find a wider market, and authors have also preferred to write in these languages, thus government policies have been frustrated to some extent in some countries.

There has often been inadequate provision of resources of both manpower and funds to assure that language policies can be implemented through government TPOs.

The funding of TPOs and the purchase of school textbooks is vitally affected by the estimated life of the books. There are two major factors at work: one is the physical life of a school textbook, taking into account storage and transport as well as the type of usage that it will receive; and the other is its life from an educational viewpoint; how long should it be before the book is replaced by a new and improved edition or a new book.

If books are to be published commercially, it is helpful in bringing down prices if publishers can be assured that any textbooks recommended or adopted will have a reasonably long educational life, say, four years at least, and, if accepted, will continue to be placed on recommended lists for this length of time. This enables the publisher to produce a larger number of copies at a lower unit cost than for a limited edition.

In some cases where there have been textbook monoplies, books have continued in existence long after they should have been replaced from an educational viewpoint.

Collective Action

In book production, there are certain fixed costs which are not related to the number of copies produced: typesetting and illustrating are examples of this and also to some extent blockmaking and platemaking. Thus the larger the number of copies produced (up to around 50,000—100,000), the more there are to spread these costs over and the lower becomes the cost per copy. This reduced cost is not always reflected in printers' quotations in LDCs but is there nevertheless.

Thus to achieve lower prices for textbooks it is desirable to have some collective action at various levels. Collective action can also

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help to make the best use of skilled manpower—which is nearly always in short supply in publishing—and of funds which are also almost invariably limited. Much has been written about the need for collective action but little appears to have been done about it.

Some of the smaller LDCs which are unable to support fully viable and effective educational publishing programmes themselves could do so with the co-operation of neighbouring countries which use the same language in education and have similar problems. But because they do not co-operate they continue to remain highly dependent on importing books.

Regional Co-operation

There are, however, examples of successful regional co-operation and among these are the textbook project for Central America in which six countries participate and a publishing project run by the South Pacific Commission to meet the needs of many of the small islands of that region.

In some countries government departments have co-operated in producing educational material of mutual interest : for instance, material on nutrition at village level has proved of interest to ministries of health, education, and agriculture. But such plans are all too often frustrated by the unwillingness of the few to concede on minor points of difference (e.g. a nursing textbook could not be produced on a regional basis because hospital matrons disagreed about the way to make a bed).

In many LDCs there are small publishers with inadequate resources in staff and funds to meet textbook needs, and they tend to produce too many titles often of a low standard. To overcome this it has been suggested that small publishers should form themselves into consortia and pool their resources, but this seldom appears to have been accepted. Competition between these publishers is usually very strong, and there is little mutual trust. No evidence has been seen of this type of co-operation working very successfully.

Unesco has assisted the production of books of folk-tales which have used the same illustrations and have been translated into various languages in several countries. This is an interesting example of successful co-operative publishing which has helped countries to share their cultural heritage.

The problems of centralized and decentralized publishing operations appear to have been very much what one would expect. Centralized operations have often been too bureaucratic and remote from the needs of the rural people, especially where regional languages are used and there are substantial ethnic and cultural differences. In large countries and all those with communication and transport problems, centralized TPOs have encountered difficulty in keeping in touch with people in remote areas and in supplying the printed books. Centralized operations have proved essential in some small countries on the grounds of cost-effectiveness and maximum utilization of scarce skilled publishing manpower. Decentralized operations have brought the advantage of taking fuller account of regional needs and differences and of providing a better local service. But often it has not been possible to staff regional offices effectively, and there have been problems in co-ordinating their work with that of central offices.

The question of monopolies

Decentralized warehousing of books has often increased costs and added to the problems of supervision, but it has brought the benefits of having sometimes immediately available the books that were needed. In some larger LDCs it must be regarded as almost an essential, but in smaller ones sometimes a luxury which they can do without.

There are few governments in LDCs that do not possess their own printing organizations. Most governments feel it essential to have in their own hands the means to print certain essential documents, such as government bulletins, and also for security printing. In some cases, government printing facilities have been expanded to enable textbooks to be produced.

Decisions to place the printing of textbooks with government printing plants, and sometimes to establish new government printing plants for this purpose are, to say the very least, often controversial. In many cases, it is found that government printing plants work slower and produce work of lower quality, and at higher prices, than commercial printers. In some countries decisions have been made to print the books that are needed through new government printing plants without a proper survey being conducted of existing facilities.

Private-sector publishing

Arguments for and against government TPOs have been by no means so clearly defined as they have been with printing organizations. Publishing is so dependent on intellectual resources of authors and editors, etc., that it is difficult to state whether they might best be mustered by a commercial publishing industry or government. In the LDCs most private-sector publishing has been started for profit motives, and the resources have often not been available to provide the subsidies that have been needed. Moreover, because publishing is a relatively sophisticated operation requiring numerous skills and long-term investment, it has not always been seen as a means of making profits easily, and funds for business enterprises have often been directed initia-

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lly at less complex industries.

Many private-sector publishers argue that they should be allowed to publish all the textbooks that are needed and that if this is done by government instead then publishing will wither away in the private sector. Many of them also state that they cannot publish books other than textbooks unless they have the more profitable textbooks to support their business, but it appears that frequently they make relatively easy and assured profits from textbooks and publish very little else. There is evidence that in some countries government textbook publishing has inhibited the growth of the private-sector publishing industry. But there are examples, in Mexico for instance, where government and private book publishing have grown together. The best answer seems to be that, as the needs are enormous, development should be planned so that the best use is made of all available resources both in government and the private sector.

Multinational firms

In many LDCs the private-sector textbook publishing has been done by multinational firms. They have often produced good textbooks related to local needs, but have sometimes encountered very little competition. This has meant, as it has with government TPO monopolies in many cases, that textbooks have remained in print long after they should have been replaced by revised or new books. But private-sector multinational monopolies are now often being replaced by government monopolies.

Monopolies have potentially been able to produce cheaper books and employ the best resources available in doing so, but this potential has not always been realized and often books have been no cheaper and no better than they would have been in a free enterprise system. Monopolies too allow the development of only a few authors and illustrators, and remove choice from the teacher about the books he will use.

Some commercial publishers argue that there is no role for subsidized university presses (and most of them worldwide are subsidized) or for subsidized government publishing (and most of it is subsidized even if only indirectly) and that if subsidies are needed it would be better to give the money to private-sector publishers who are already skilled in the work rather than to set up new organizations, many of which are highly amateur. However, few people would deny that many very important books have been published which could not have appeared at all without some form of subsidy or no expectation of them making a profit. The publication of academic books (where editions of as few as five hundred copies may sometimes be required, and where it is unusual to produce more than 2,000 to 3,000 copies) presents difficult problems of finance. The books are usually long and the typesetting cost is often as high as 50 per cent of the total cost and because this cost is spread over only a few copies the retail prices of the books are very high. Similar problems exist with some of the textbooks required by university students, especially where only a few students are studying a particular subject and the demand for the books is consequently limited. Thus subsidized publishing through university presses has often played an important role in many countries.

University presses publishing

In the DCs it is largely found uneconomic for university presses to own book printing equipment. There are now few university presses in, for instance, the United States of America, Canada or Australia, that own printing equipment. Unfortunately, in the LDCs printing and publishing are often confused in the minds of planners and printing organizations are established when what is needed is publishing organizations. It is frequently easy to get donor countries to give printing equipment without even demonstrating a real need for it. Many university presses in LDCs seem o have put too much emphasis on printing and not nearly enough on publishing. Some have found that it is not easy to keep their equipment busy printing books (because authorship and publishing are not being given enough attention) so they have begun printing on a commercial basis (but in competition with commercial publishing which is not subsidized). In these cases, the traditional role of the university press of publishing important scholarly books has not been played to the extent that would be desirable.

Some subsidized publishing of university-level textbooks has been provided in other ways than through university presses. For instane, the Maharashtra University Textbook Production Board has been mainly funded through the Indian University Grants Commission. The textbooks produced have been published by private firms assisted by the Board.

National book development councils

Unesco has given encouragement to the establishment of national book development councils in the hope that they would play a useful role in producing plans and programmes for national book development as part of overall national development, and that they would also promote, encourage, and develop all aspects of the provision of books. Many countries have in the last ten years established these councils, and some of them have done very useful work.

Where governments have funded these organizations they have tended to wish to keep very tight control

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of them and have appointed many government officers to them to do this. They have also been reluctant to give the councils the wide powers and executive authority that they need to take independent action and carry out a programme. It would probably be better if these organizations were funded from the private sector, and if they had stronger representation from publishers, authors and booksellers, etc. Although of course there would still be a need for a good many government officers as members. But largely the book trade is not ready in most LDCs to provide the funding needed, and of course there would be some danger if it did that, its point of view would then be given too much prominence in the work of the councils. But midway between these two situations there should be some compromise possible where funding comes from more than one source and representation is on a fair and reasonable basis and the councils are given the powers they need to carry out programmes. But this solution does not seem to have been found anywhere yet on a full and satisfactory basis.

Most of these councils cover all book interests, not just textbooks. Potentially, they could be of considerable use to TPOs not only in helping with planning at a national level but also in providing a platform where the various bodies with interests in textbooks could voice their ideas and opinions and thus achieve a greater degree of harmony, understanding, and co-operation between them. These councils could also assemble and make available to TPOs a great deal of useful information regarding resources in the way of authors, illustrators, translators, printers, etc.

Multilingual publishing

The widespread use of local languages has been instrumental in furthering education and improving literacy in many LDCs as well as in developed countries such as the the USSR. But there is often an indifference to, and a tendency to denigrate, local languages, usually because those responsible for planning may well have received their own education in an international language and may tend to believe that a local language, even when it is their own mother tongue, may not be either suitable for education or likely to produce long-term economic benefits in a rapidly shrinking world where knowledge of an international language becomes more and more highly desirable. Moreover, government programmes to introduce the use of local languages (and multilingual publishing to support these programmes) have not always received the hoped for support from commercial publishers, who often find it difficult to find authors and editors in these languages and also more difficult to make profits from publishing them.

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AMADOU-MAHTAR M'BOW

Shoichi Noma: Father of Asian Publishing World*

Known throughout the world as one of the giants of Japanese publishing, Shoichi Noma was also for us a faithful friend of Unesco in the defence of human rights.

His devotion to Unesco began almost two decades ago, when he presided over the first regional meeting of book experts, held in Tokyo in 1966. This meeting was to give rise to the organization's world-wide programme of action in favour of books and reading. Three years later, Shoichi Noma founded the Tokyo Book Development Centre, with a view to providing training courses which, over the years, have benefited more than two hundred book professionals throughout Asia. This Centre was later to be incorporated into the new Asian Cultural Centre for Unesco, which was established in 1971 and to which Shoichi Noma contributed substantial professional and material backing.

After participating actively in International Book Year (1972), Shoichi Noma supported with Unesco the launching of the Asian Co-publication Programme to encourage the production of outstanding original books for Asian children. The success of the programme led Unesco to support and encourage similar efforts in other regions.

Shoichi Noma, Vice-president of Asian Cultural Centre for Unesco (ACCU) and honorary chairman of the Board of Kodansha Publishers Ltd., passed away on August 10, 1984. Book development efforts made during the past two decades in this region would have been impossible had it not been for the leadership of this great man who was admired as the "Father of the Asian Publishing World".In addition to being the leader of Japanese publishers and thelr representative in the internationai arena, Mr Noma devoted much of his energy to book development in Asia and other developing areas of the world.

Shoichi Noma also endowed the Noma Concours for Children's Picture Book Illustrations, designed to recognize and give worldwide exposure to talented illustrators from developing countries. Furthermore, he created the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa, and later the Noma Prize, awarded in recognition of outstanding work in eradicating illiteracy.

In July 1984, a few weeks before his death, I had the privilege of presenting him with the Unesco Silver Medal as a tribute to his exceptional efforts in the service of humanity through his contribution to the dissemination of books throughout the world in order that knowledge may be brought within the reach of evey individual and play its role in the progress of every nation.

Beyond the sadness we feel at the thought of his no longer being with us, we know that he has left with us something imperishable—the books he helped make possible and, perhaps even more, the love of reading which he sought to encourage and reward.

*Asian Book Development Newsletter, Vol. XVI, No. 2, 1985, Mr. M'Bow is Director-General of Unesco.

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O.P. GHAI

Book Exports : India Poised for Greater Achievements

Being the text of the Presidential Address at the inauguration of the London Exhibition of Indian Books, April 10, 1985.

Mr. Bloomfield, Mr. Amarnath, Mr. Saigal, fellow publishers from India, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure and a proud privilege for me to be here with you on the occasion of the inauguration of the Exhibition of Indian Books organised by Star Publications, India & Asian Bookshop, London. It is heartening to note that the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the National Book Trust have collaborated in this venture. That shows the great importance and deep concern our Government has for the promotion of Indian books. The very fact that, besides books in English, there are latest titles in Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, Tamil, Bengali and Marathi, adds to the value of this exhibition.

The presence of so many publishers from India, especially members of the Federation of Indian Publishers, shows how keen and involved they are in associating themselves with the venture of one of their prominent members. Among the audience I see a number of librarians, booksellers, authors and bookmen which shows how much interested they are in publications from India. It is a happy omen for the success of this venture.

We all realise the importance of books, especially in modern society. They are the best ambassadors in spreading culture and in presenting the philosophy, the way of life of the country and its people. They are the best link between the people here and the people at home. They are an important link for the younger generation to know the past, the present and the future of the country of their origin.

One single factor, namely, that Indian authors are competent to work in English and that the Indian publishers have the technical knowledge and the expertise to publish in the English language gives us an added opportunity to project the rich culture, heritage and civilisation of our great country. We are now publishing books not only about our history, culture, religion and philosophy but are increasingly contributing to contemporary advances in science, technology, economics and management.

English is no longer a language of the English alone. It is now a second language in many countries of the world, so the whole world is our market.

Books published in India are being exported to over 80 countries. But India's share of the world market is negligible, despite the fact that in terms of English language publishing, India ranks third in the world. I would like to repeat that we are well equipped to make a dent on the export front. We have already trebled our exports in the last 4-5 years, from Rs. 60 million to Rs. 200 million. It is a good achievement but much more has still to be done and it is possible to do so as we have dedicated and committed men like Amarnath who has devoted a major part of his youth in travelling around the world exporting Indian books, especially in the regional languages. I remember his being away from home for several months and when I would ask him if it was books alone, be would give a childlike mischievous smile and begin telling me about his efforts to promote Indian books. He has many firsts to his credit and I am happy and proud to say that he was among the first to make a beginning in the Chinese market with repeated visits and exhibitions.

The inauguration of the Exhibition of Indian Books today has an added importance because apart from the fact that the U.K. itself is a large market for our scholarly publications

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for academic and research libraries and our language publications for schools with large ethnic enrolment, we have an opportunity to show and sell our books to many countries of Asia and Africa who traditionally make their purchases from London, which also happens to be the centre of all Commonwealth countries.

A word of advice from one who has been in Indian publishing for 40 years and who has been exposed to international publishing for 3 decades. It is that the success of this laudable venture will depend upon the speed and efficiency with which new books are made known to customers and supplies made in time. This depends on modern management techniques more than on enthusiasm alone. I can assure you and all importers of Indian books that they are not alone, they have the backing of the entire community of Indian publishers.

Before I close I would like to share with you a million pound secret. Learn from the Publishers Association of the UK how they successfully market English books abroad and from the British Council how they promote English books in all countries of the world. They are ever ready to share their knowledge.

With these words I congratulate you, the organisers of the exhibition, and thank you all for your participation which will certainly give all the encouragement needed for such ventures. After a week the venue of this exhibition will shift to Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan which is also doing its best to promote Indian culture.

I would now request Mr. Bloomfield to inaugurate the exhibition.

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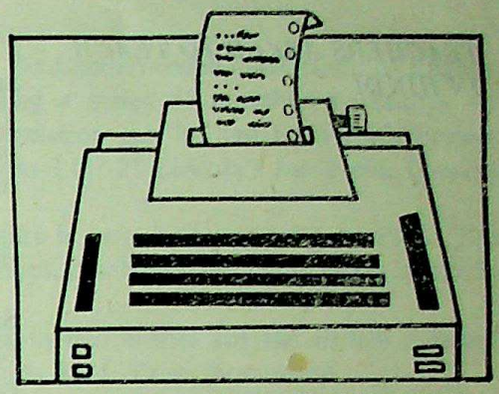

NEWS AND EVENTS

LITERARY AWARD FOR DR MULK RAJ ANAND

The Prize Committee of the International Academy of Philosophy of Art (AIPA) has chosen Dr Mulk Raj Anand to be one of the two Laureates of the prize of the Academy for the year 1985. The award has been maide in recognition of Dr Anand's contributions as an Indian novelist wr itng in English and as a poet devoted to the values of freedom and peace to the promotion of a vision having deep roots in the philosophical heritage of his country. The other Laureate of the Academy is Dr. (Miss) Florence Hetzler, Professor at Fordham University, New York.

MOORTIDEVI AWARD FOR KANNADA WRITER

The Bharatiya Jnanpith Moortidevi literary award for 1983 was presented to Mr. C.K. Nagaraja Rao for his Kannada novel, *Pattamahadevi Shantaladevi*, at a function in New Delhi recently.

Mr Nagaraja Rao, presiding over a seminar on "Regional literature in the national context", underscored the need to "exchange" our regional literatures so that people could overcome the language handicap.

Mr Bhishma Sahni, eminent Hindi writer who inaugurated the seminar, said the 'bani' of Kabir and many saints and savants from the South had a universal appeal. Dr Prabhjot Kaur said Punjabi literature was rooted in the soil of that land and always laid emphasis on national unity.

WHAT AILS HINDI PUBLISHING

The maladies from which Hindi publishing is suffering were discussed at a special session of the Hindi Prakashak Sangh held in New Delhi recently.

Mr Krishna Chandra Beri, former president of the organisation and a leading Hindi publisher of north India, castigated the publishers for t heir wrong policies. He said: "The Hindi publisher has been gradually aliena ing himself from the common reader owing to the lure of bulk purchases by Governments. Immoral competitiveness has infringed the sanctity of our business; we are making books dearer and dearer and getting farther and farther our readers."

Mr Beri said there was a big general market for Bengali, Gujarati and Malayalam books. A 'reading culture' had developed in these languages. But Hindi had not been able to develop such a culture. He expressed concern at the exorbitant prices of Hindi bibliographies.

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Mr Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi, MP, dwelt upon the degradation of publishing. He said objectionable publications should be penalised. He pleaded for revival of the literature which had inspired the people during the struggle for freedom.

TEACHERS ASKED TO TEACH IN HINDI

"The teachers should make students get a perspective of Indian tradition and culture, using Hindi as a medium of teaching", said Prof. R.P. Rastogi, Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, at a welcome ceremony organised by the BHU branch of the Kendriya Sachivalaya Hindi Parishad in Varanasi on May 18.

He asked the teachers of the university to teach in Hindi and let the students feel that they had got full command over their mother-tongue.

In his welcome address, Mr J.P. Chaturvedi, secretary of Raj Bhasha Samiti, said the founder of the university, the great Mahamana, worked for popularising Hindi and formed the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan on the campus. As a result of his untiring efforts, Hindi became the language of courts and BHU got the credit for starting post-graduate classes in Hindi for the first time in a university.

BOOK ON STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi released on May 27 the first of a set of four volumes on the role of non-Congress movements in the freedom struggle. Published under the auspices of the Congress Centenary Celebrations Committee, the project of "associated movements" envisages compilation of the work of 26 scholars. Specific chapters cover topics including the Arya Samaj, Khudai Khidmatgar, Rampa Rebellion, Swaraj Party, Forward Bloc, Santhal Movement, Home Rule Movement and Namdhari Movement.

The project is conducted by Dr P.N. Chopra, Chief Editor, and Mr Xavier Arakal, Associate Editor. The set will be priced at Rs. 350.

ALLAHABAD V-C HONOURED

At an impressive ceremony at the group headquarters of the NCC at Allahabad on May 18, Col. M.K. Srivastava, Commander, NCC, Allahabad, and Professor H.C. Khare, Head of the Department of Mathematics, Allahabad University, formally put on the rank badges of Colonel on the shoulders of the Vice-Chancellor. Addressing the gathering, Col. Srivastava said the Government had conferred upon the Vice-Chancellor this well-deserved honour for his contribution to the NCC movement.

URDU TRANSLATION OF RIG VEDA

The first volume of an Urdu translation of the Rig Veda is now available. This is the second major achievement of a Vedic scholar, Pandit Ashu Ram Arya, who has made it his life's mission to translate all the Vedas into Urdu. He published an Urdu translation of the Yajur Veda last year and plans to bring out an Urdu translation of the Sam Veda by the end of this year. He would embark on the translation of the Atharva Veda into Urdu next year.

Pandit Arya has given in simple words the arrangement of the subject matter of the Rig Veda, which comprises 1,028 Suktas and 10,589 Mantras. The Rig Veda describes the qualities and nature on all products of creation and how to adore and worship them. The very name Rig Veda means truth and its cause.

He said he now planned trilingual editions of the Vedas which would give the meanings and explanations of the Vedic Mantras in Urdu, Hindi and English simultaneously.

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VISALAANDHRA PUBLISHING HOUSE INAUGURATED

Mr N. Giri Prasad, Secretary, A.P. State Council (C.P.I.), inaugurated the Visalaandhra Publishing House, Hyderabad, on May 27. Books on war, peace and disarmament were released to mark the 40th anniversary of the Victory over Fascism (1941-45).

ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Publishers Databases Ltd. (PDL), the London-based consortium of English language publishers, will be holding a series of monthly workshops on electronic publishing. Further information can be had from PDL Project Director, Mandarin Communications Ltd, 17 Lincoln's Inn Field, London WC 2A 3EG, UK.

The Electronic Publishing Panel is now incorporated into PDL. The consortium offers seminars, workshops, database trials, and market research.

COMMONWEALTH POETRY PRIZE 1985

The Commonwealth Institute has invited entries for the British Airways Commonwealth Poetry Prize Awards 1985. Prize monies are :

£5,000 for best published poet;

£2,000 for best first-time published poet; and

£1,000 for individual world area awards : Africa, Americas (Canada/ Caribbean), Asia, Australasia/Pacific, and UK/Europe.

The competition is open to all published Commonwealth poets, including the UK. There is an extra £2,500 fund for sponsored readings by winners. Entries in non-English officially recognised languages will be accepted in translation.

The Prize has been organised in partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation.

New
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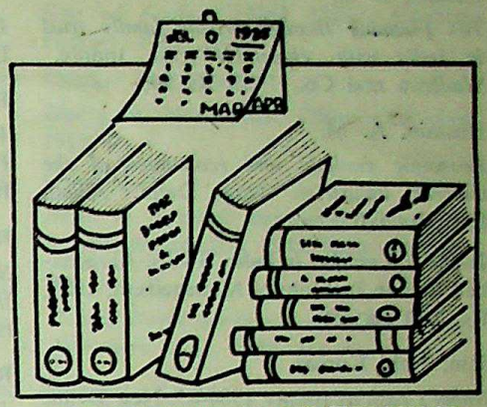

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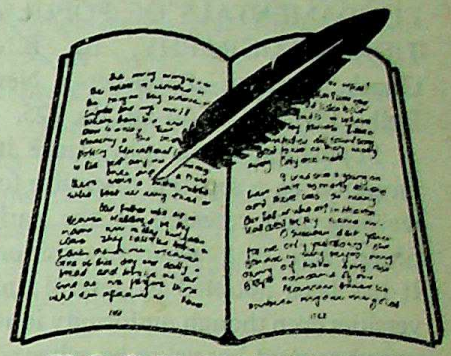

BOOK REVIEWS

CHAINS OF SERVITUDE: Bondage and Slavery in India, by Utsa Patnaik & Manjari Dingwaney, Sangam Books, Madras, 377pp, Rs. 110.

The essays in this volume bring together diverse aspects of bondedness and exploitative employer-labourer relations, particularly among the rural population.

The first section traces the historical roots of the present status of the bonded and the unfree. Uma Chakravarti begins it with a discussion of the evolution of the institution of slavery in ancient India. This is followed by an essay on slavery in medieval India, in which Salim Kidwai focuses on certain new forms of servitude—domestic slavery, for instance—introduced after the Ghorian conquests from the twelfth century. In the last of the historical essays, Tanika Sarkar analyses slavery and debt bondage in the early colonial period, indicating the persistence of domestic slavery and a flourishing slave import market, in which the Europeans also participated.

The second section is an overview of some contemporary aspects of bondage, and consists of five area studies in agriculture and crafts, which highlight the underlying unity of the phenomenon of bondage despite very diverse regional conditions. The five case studies include one on agricultural labour and handloom weavers in South Arcot district, Tamil Nadu; on brick kiln workers in Muzaffarnagar district, Bihar; on migrant labourers in rural Punjab; on bonded tribals in Santhal Parganas; and on prostitution as bondage in Jaunsar Bawar, Dehradun District, Uttar Pradesh. All five studies point to one essential relationship: that between bondage and destitution. This destitution in turn is either a legacy of the precapitalist direct relations of landlessness and subordination to which certain castes have been traditionally subjected by those monopolising landed property; or it is the outcome of the impoverishment of those petty producers who initially possessed some means of production, and from which they have been separated.

The third and final section examines the law in the pre-and post-independence period, to reveal the inadequacy of legislation given the indissoluble connections between poverty and uncertainty of employment on the one hand, and the prevalence of debt bondage, on the other.

LORD READING: Viceroy of India By Aruna Sinha, 1985, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 240 pp. Rs. 90.

An important chapter in modern Indian history, the Viceroyalty of Lord Reading (1921-1926) marked a crucial phase in the growth of nationalism in the country and transfer of new constitutional responsibilities to Indian leadership. An attempt is made in this research study to throw light on Reading's internal policies against the background of the reforms introduced in the administrative setup of British India as a sequel to the August 1917 Declaration. It emphasizes the implications of Reading's policies in regard to India's political, constitutional and economic life, and the changes brought about in the Government's attitude to increasingly respond to Indian public opinion.

Based on an intensive examination of the *Reading Papers* and other source material drawn from private and official records, the study

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provides a most comprehensive review of Reading's Indian career. It fills in the gaps in the existing literature on his Viceroyalty, opening new avenues of research on the subject. As a monograph, it should be of special interest to researchers and libraries.

FUNDAMENTALS OF POPULATION GEOGRAPHY, by B.N. Ghosh, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 254+xii, Rs. 125.

Population Geography, since its inception as a separate discipline for teaching and research in the early fifties, has won wide recognition. It has been adopted by several universities even though uniformity in its course content has yet to be achieved.

This textbook on Population Geography by Dr. B.N. Ghosh attempts to meet the felt need for a standard work on the subject. It also seeks to fill in the information gap that exists between class-room teaching and academic research. Based on the latest syllabi of universities, the book incorporates the fundamental concepts and precepts of Population Geography, analyses at length recent theoretical and empirical developments in it, discusses spatial population dynamics with reference to world patterns, and brings out the interactions among sociology, demography, economics and geography.

Primarily designed as a textbook, Population Geography is not pedagogical. It incorporates a good deal of findings of latest research in the subject.

SELECTED THOUGHTS OF INDIRA GANDHI: A Book of Quotes, by S.K. Dhawan, Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1985, 373pp, Rs. 200.

This is a monumental work, a virtual encyclopaedia of invaluable, inspiring and elevating thoughts, ideas and observations of Indira Gandhi, one of the most powerful and yet most popular leaders of the twentieth century. It embodies inimitable quotes from her speeches, writings, press interviews, broadcasts and books.

On a perusal of its contents, it becomes obvious that there is hardly any subject of importance under the sun on which she has not expressed herself in a most emphatic, clear and forceful manner. The author has rendered a yeoman's service to the present as well as future generations of readers by selecting, compiling and collating Mrs. Gandhi's thoughts in a single volume.

The book provides an invaluable reference tool for the general reader as well as the professional, for the student as well as the research scholar, for the information scientist as well as the fraternity of journalists.

ECONOMICS OF CROP INSURANCE: With Special Reference to the Needs and Situations in Developing Countries, by P.K. Ray, Central Publishing Concern, Calcutta, 1985, 333pp, Rs. 300.

Written by a leading expert on agricultural insurance, this book is complementary to the author's existing book, *Agricultural Insurance* published by the Pergamon Press, Oxford, England. The Oxford publication dealt with the technical, operational and organizational aspects of crop and other agricultural insurance, especially as practised in some of the most advanced countries such as the USA, Canada, Japan, and Sweden, and their applicability to the newly developing countries.

The present work deals specially with the economic functions and benefits and the economic viability of crop insurance only, with particular reference to the needs of and situations in the developing countries.

The author views insurance as a tool of economic development, and therefore considers that crop insurance can also be an important means of agricultural development, when combined with other appropriate institutional measures for agricultural development.

The book is a guide for laymen and policy makers in different countries to appraising the economic role and significance of crop insurance in respect of agricultural development. It can also be used as a textbook by students, and as a reference book by professionals.

NEW TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANSHIP, by P.A. Mohanrajan (ed.), Allied Publishers, New Delhi, 1984, 284pp, Rs. 100.

It has been said that the late Dr. S.R. Ranganathan is to library science what Einstein is to physics. The essays in this Ranganathan festshrift amply illustrate this view. More significantly, this volume unfolds new ideas of internationally reputed contemporary library and information scientists. The references to Ranganathan and the new insights on diverse fields of his interest as well as more modern areas in library and information science give a certain unity to this volume. The book is published in celebration of the platinum jubilee of the Madras University Library whose first librarian was Ranganathan himself.

GLIMPSING AN INVISIBLE UNIVERSE: The Emergence of X-ray Astronomy, by Richard F. Hirsh, Cambridge University Press, 1983, 186pp.

This book deals with the evolution of X-ray astronomy during the initial phases of development. The story commences in the late 1950s with the discovery of high-energy radiations from beyond the solar system, and is taken through to the point at which the X-ray astronomers began exploring questions of broader interest in astronomy. In examining this early period, when scientists acquired

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fundamental data and the rudiments of theory, the author shows how advances in techniques and public policy changes played important roles in advancing the subject. Three transformations of astronomy as a discipline are highlighted: the augmentation of purely optical observation; the emergence of federal funding as the dominant source of financial support; and the greatly altered size and structure of the research community.

The book will appeal to historians and sociologists of contemporary science, as well as astronomers.

SPORTSMEN OF PUNJAB, Vol. I, by Sarwan Singh, Punjabi University, Patiala, 1984, 297pp, Rs. 30.50

This book seeks to introduce about fifty Punjabi sportsmen of acknowledged merit. There are dozens of sportsmen of Punjabi origin, other than these fifty, who are still to be written upon. It is only fit that the top-rankers among the multitudes of contestants should be dwelt upon. The people of Punjab have been winning laurels in different fields of activity but have not been keeping a record of their achievements in black and white. A beginning in the preservation of the records of the struggle and achievements of the Punjabi sportsmen has been made in this book.

The arrangement of the write-ups on the sportsmen is not in accordance with their status or the games they played or any other consideration. It is in accordance with the order of the alphabet. The sports personalities dealt with in the book belong to the post-independence era and are those who have, by their performance, won medals and other distinctions for the country. Only biodata and statistics about these sportsmen which were available up to the year 1980-81 have been recorded. Since then, some of them have undoubtedly broken fresh ground.

THE INCOME TAX LAW, by C.R. Datta, New Delhi, Orient Law House.

In one volume the book contains sectionwise commentaries, case references, summaries of important topics, suggestions, notifications, circulars, press notes, relevant Acts and Rules, and an elaborate index highlighting tax exemptions and concessions which the Government expects the taxpayer should avail of.

The book has been designed in its contents, arrangement, get-up and finish with a view to rendering the maximum extent of assistance to the reader in finding out solutions to his problems.

The review of *Comprehensive History of India* published in the May 1985 issue of *I.B.I.* was of Vol. XI, and not of Vol. IX, as erroneously printed.—*Editor*

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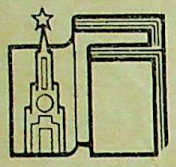

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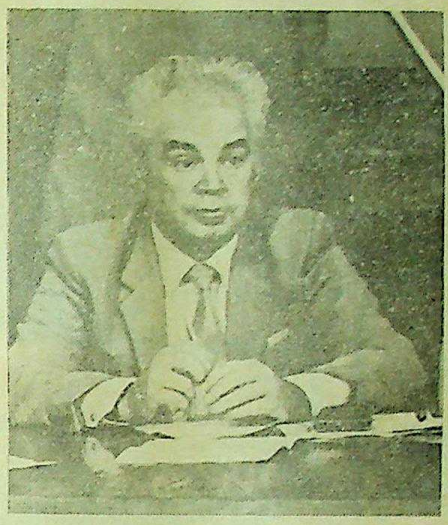
Welcome to Moscow!

The Fifth Moscow International Book Fair will be held in September this year. More than 2,000 book firms and organizations have already made known their desire to participate in it. The interest shown in the Moscow forum by foreign firms, which have found an excellent market here for their products, is quite natural. At the same time, there is mounting interest in Soviet literature among readers abroad, which is shared by publishers and book dealers.

As one of the world's leading book publishing countries, the Soviet Union is in a position to offer the widest possible variety of books for sale and reprint in other countries. The USSR currently accounts for one in every six books being printed in the world. Altogether more than 80,000 titles of books and brochures are put out annually in this country, with a total printing of 2,000 million copies. In the USSR, books are published in the 89 languages spoken in the country and in 61 foreign languages. An annual average of 2,000 titles by authors from more than 100 countries are published here, totalling upwards of 160 million copies. This exceeds Great Britain by five to one, and is double the amount produced in the United States, France or Japan.

Preparations for the 5th Moscow Book Fair are in full swing. Its Organizing Committee is headed by Boris Pastukhov, Chairman of the Goskomizdat. Other sponsors include, as before, the Copyright Agency of the USSR (VAAP) and the all-Union association, Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga. Other agencies, as well as public organizations and Soviet writers' and other similar unions, are also involved in the preparations for the 1985 Moscow International Book Fair.



Igor Kazansky
General Director of the Moscow International Book Fair

The Fair will take place on September 10-16 in the grounds of the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements, where it has been allotted an area of more than 25,000 square metres. As before, the Soviet display will consist of books, music, geographical maps and atlases, picture postcards, reproductions, stamps, slides and records offered for sale and/or cession of rights.

In 1985 the Moscow Book Fair will comprise two international expositions under the mottoes of "Books in the Peoples' Fight Against the Menace of Nuclear War" and "Books and Youth". As always, the Business Meeting Club will be holding its sessions during the Fair. This time, the topics of discussion will be "Forty Years Without World Wars. The Lessons of History and Books" and "The Problems of Youth in Contemporary Literature". Besides book publishers and distributors, invitations to attend the Club meetings will be extended to prominent public figures, scientists, writers, veterans of World War II.

The magazine *Sovetskaya Zhenshchina*, and the General Director's Office have already announced the traditional international children's drawing competition, to be conducted under the motto "I Am Drawing My Dream". The best pictures are to be put on display at the Fair, as usual, and the winners will be invited to come to Moscow.

One novel feature of this Fair will be the organization of days specially devoted to Union Republics, arranged in response to the ever greater interest shown by foreign firms in publications reflecting the social and cultural advances achieved by the peoples of our multinational country.

The Fair's programme of meetings, visits, and sight-seeing tours is going to be as extensive and varied as ever, including meetings at publishing houses, writers', composers', artists' and other associations and at scientific and cultural centres, as well as theatre performances, concerts, and so on.

The regular Moscow international book forum is not far off, and it is our pleasure and privilege today to say to the many book-lovers, "Welcome to Moscow!"

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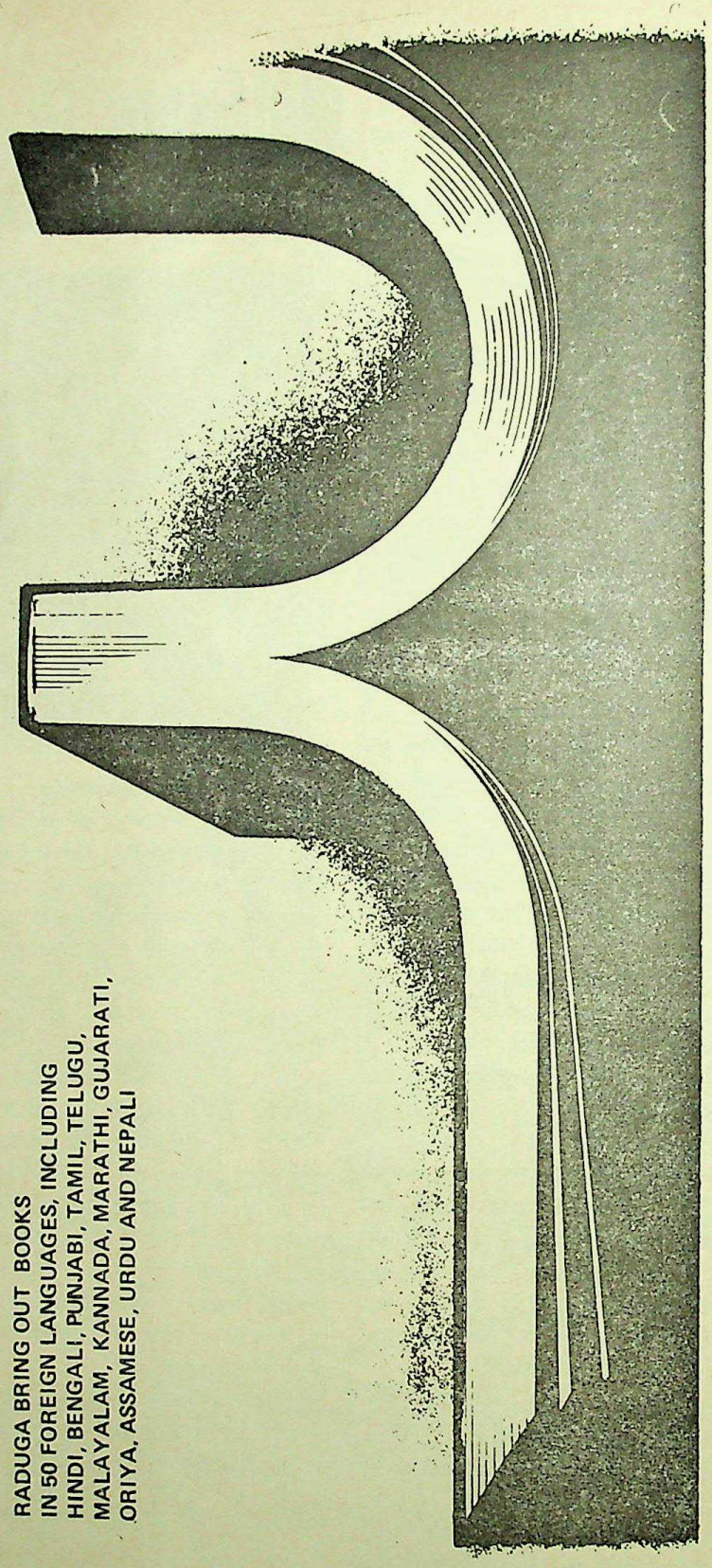

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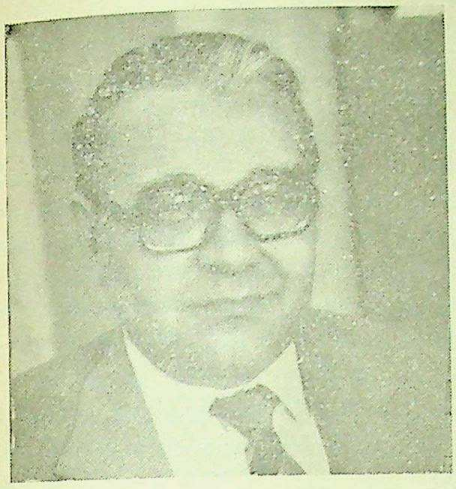

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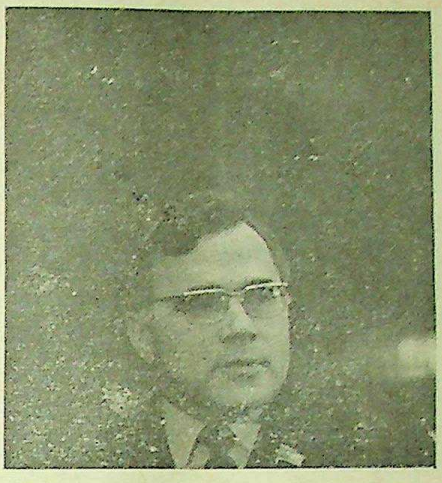

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From Heart to Heart

BORIS PASTUKHOV, Chairman of the State Committee for Publishing, Printing, the Book Trade; KONSTANTIN DOLGOV, Chairman of the VAAP Board; and YURI LEONOV, General Director of the foreign trade association Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga, held a round-table discussion on the place of cultural cooperation in the life of the world community, the role of book exchange for bringing nations closer together, and the importance of Moscow International Book Fairs.

Boris PASTUKHOV : Cultural exchange. These two very familiar words encompass multiple aspects of people's activities today. Among them are exhibitions, guest tours, competitions, festivals, creative contacts between scientists,writers and workers in the various fields of arts, all in all constituting a priceless contribution to mutual cultural enrichment of the nations living together on our planet, to the cause of international understanding and trust. This is the one and only road that leads towards man's age-long dream—a stable peace on earth, freed of wars and weapons.

Our country, following the precepts of its founder—Lenin—to assimilate and digest all that has been valuable in the more than two thousand years of development of human thought and culture has been working indefatigably to expand and deepen the beneficent process of exchange in spiritual values. The most eloquent testimony to this are the figures pertaining to publications of books and brochures by foreign authors in the USSR.

Since the Revolution of 1917, works of foreign fiction have come out in the Soviet Union in 39,726 editions, the total printing approaching 2.4 thousand million copies. These works were published in 96 languages spoken in the USSR, and also in the original; in 1983 alone there were publications in 25 languages of the peoples of the USSR and in six foreign languages.

In one year, we publish more than 80,000 titles of books and brochures in 89 languages of our multinational country and in 73 foreign languages. The total annual printing reaches 2,000 million copies. More than 200 publishing houses of the Soviet Union produce books in all fields of science, culture and art.

Konstantin DOLGOV : Ignorance, which breeds distrust and suspicion, is the principal cause of alienation. That was why fascism, the acme of obscurantism and hatred, always marked its ascent to power by consigning to the fire the works of mankind's greatest humanists.

People have always striven to live in a community, for pain is less agonising when it is shared by friends, while joy multiplies when your friends rejoice with you. The most formidable work yields to a common effort. And there is so much work still facing mankind. Can we stand for children starving to death in our space age? Is it feasible that some members of humanity who have learnt to build skyscrapers still dwell in shacks and

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even caves? And how many homeless people there are ! And the illiterate ! Nor do I only refer to the developing countries, which have been plundered by the colonialists and have to make up for lost time. Poverty is also a permanent feature of countries which like to call themselves advanced. A great deal to relieve it could be done even today, if those who have been promoting the arms race, the development of ever more lethal weapons to maintain the "balance of fear", would agree to work together to achieve a balance of trust, to solve problems which require joint efforts on a global scale.

No, I have not been digressing: international book exchange offers numerous examples of cooperation among countries with different social systems. This applies both to works of fiction, which give an artistic embodiment of the nations' historical experience, and to specialised literature, which tells about the achievements of modern socio-political and scientific thought in the precise language of facts, documents, formulas and definitions. This literature finds a broad readership abroad. The fundamental transformations worked in our country in accordance with the ideals of great socialist thinkers are followed with close interest abroad, and publications of works by leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet state are in great demand. Works by Konstantin Chernenko, General Secretary of the CC CPSU, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, have been brought out in large editions in the countries of the socialist community, in Western Europe, in both Americas, and elsewhere in the world.

The demand for informative literature has been growing steadily : in the last decade alone the Copyright Agency of the USSR concluded more than 10,000 contracts for export and import of works on political, social and economic problems. Every year, through the mediation of the Agency, up to 400 books by foreign scientists are translated and published in the Soviet Union, while foreign publishers purchase licences for approximately 600 works by Soviet scientists annually.

As for "imaginative writing", since the USSR joined the Geneva Copyright Convention in 1973, VAAP has concluded more than 9,000 export-import contracts for the publication of nearly 21.5 thousand works of fiction and art. In recent years alone readers in the West have been given an opportunity to acquaint themselves with nearly 5,000 books by Soviet writers, who aim to project a truthful image of the hero of our time, a person who devotes his creative talent to the achievement of a happy future for mankind.

As for Soviet publications of works by foreign authors, *The Library of World Literature*, *The 20th-Century Foreign Novel*, *Contemporary Short Story*, *The 20th-Century Oriental Poetry*, *Library of Selected Works of Afro-Asian Writers*—this is a far from complete list of serial publications that have been going on for years and which enjoy tremendous popularity with Soviet readers.

Yuri LEONOV : It would be opportune at this point to recall the words of H.G. Wells, who visited our country in 1920, a grim year,when economic dislocation caused by the Civil War was at its height. He was amazed to find that a literary undertaking of unprecedented scope had been launched in the warring and hunger-stricken Russia, an undertaking that was unthinkable in rich England and rich America. In the starving Russia, he was staggered to discover hundreds of people working on translations; their translations were being published to provide new Russia with a knowledge of world culture that was not accessible to any other nation.

Life has borne out the forecast of the great fantast and an objective realist. The Soviet people have carried out an unprecedented cultural revolution and, true to the behest of the great Lenin, are carefully preserving and developing their own rich cultural traditions and constantly enriching them with all that is most worthwhile in the national cultures of other peoples.

Every year, Soviet publishing houses bring out, in translation into Russian and the languages of the other nationalities of the USSR, works of over 2,000 foreign authors in a total printing of some 150 million copies. More than 200 specialised shops in our country sell books, art albums and works of pictorial arts both from the socialist countries and from the West. In the United States we annually buy licences for up to 15,000 titles of books on the broadest imaginable range of subjects.

We could expect, it would seem, a lively opposite traffic along the street of international book exchange. Unfortunately, I have to state that our book imports from the countries of the West exceed our exports by some 50 to 100 per cent. And for some countries this disproportion is even more striking. Nor does this situation reflect the potential requirements of the book market in the countries of the West. But the uniformly great interest evinced there in Soviet literature and art is foiled, if we return to the traffic metaphor, by numerous "no thoroughway" signs that are put up with particular zeal by the proponents of "free contacts" between cultures.

I wouldn't like to paint too black a picture : we have numerous business associates abroad, who take a sober view of the real situation. The annual sales promoted by the Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga amount to nearly 150 million rubles. And every year we gain some 25 to 30 new clients abroad. As for us, we welcome broader ties and are ever prepared to expand our business contacts on the principles of mutual respect and equality,

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for we know that by selling books we contribute to peace and progress.

Boris PASTUKHOV : It is obvious that despite the spectacular development of the mass media, the book, as a source of knowledge about the external world and man's inner self, will always retain its primary role in man's spiritual life. International book exchange is called upon to bring the people closer together, to consolidate peace and international security.

The scope of cooperation in this field has particularly grown after the Helsinki Conference, which highlighted exchange in intellectual treasures as a potent instrument for promoting mutual understanding and trust. Let me quote a few more figures. In the ten years which have passed since the Helsinki Conference, we have brought out 17,249 editions of books and brochures by foreign authors in the total printing of 1,126,637,000 copies. The printings of US authors amounted, within this period, to over 152 million copies, French authors—242 million copies, British authors—over 168 million copies, and authors from Federal Germany—133 million copies.

An important contribution to the development of the cultural exchange between European countries in the spirit of the Helsinki agreements was the publication of the international series, *European Poetry*. We have also brought out bilingual anthologies of 20th-century poetry of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

And, finally, it is most significant that only a month after the signing in Helsinki of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Soviet capital welcomed exhibitors and guests to an international book exhibition under the motto "Books for Peace and Progress".

This motto was borrowed by the subsequent Moscow Book Fairs, the first of which was held in 1977. Perhaps we had not enough experience in organising forums on this scale, but we were sincerely eager to provide foreign publishers and book-sellers who came to Moscow with the most favourable conditions for business and creative contacts. Our business associates appreciated this, as well as the vast commercial potential of the fair : after all, according to the UNESCO data, the Soviet Union holds the leading place in the amount of translations published.

We had plenty of worthwhile books to offer the participants in Moscow Fairs. And the interest of the Soviet reading public in the work of writers abroad and the steady demand for their books are only too well known. That is why, I believe, the motto of Moscow Book Fairs has received broad recognition, and the fairs themselves have now become traditional and are enjoying high international prestige.

Konstantin DOLGOV : This is borne out by statistical data pertaining to the short but dynamic biography of Moscow Book Fairs. The first was attended by 1,535 firms from 67 countries and three international organisations. Six years later, the Fourth Moscow Book Fair was attended by 2,643 firms from 94 countries and 16 international organisations. This growth, I've been told by our foreign colleagues, is largely due to the favourable atmosphere at the fairs, opportunities for a free exchange of opinions and absence of any discrimination on political grounds. All this is conductive to lively business.

The last fair, incidentally, produced record results : with direct participation of the VAAP, 2,500 export-import contracts covering 3,500 books were signed. I am sure that Mr Leonov is in a position to cite no less impressive figures.

Yuri LEONOV : The total sum of contracts and agreements concluded by Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga with the participants of the latest Moscow Book Fair topped a hundred million rubles. This is a very satisfactory result. But I must emphasise another aspect of Moscow Book Fairs. They are not exclusively, and not even primarily, concerned with the sale of books and licences. In their festive atmosphere and democratic spirit, they represent a Festival of the Book. Many guests have commented that hospitable Moscow attracts people with the festive atmosphere of free trade and social intercourse, a chance to meet old friends and to make new ones. I hope that it is in this mood that participants and guests of the Fifth Book Fair are making ready to travel to Moscow in the autumn of this year.

Boris PASTUKHOV : And this lays a great responsibility on us, the organisers. I can promise our guests traditional Moscow hospitality and a broad and varied cultural programme.

On behalf of the organisers, the State Committee for Publishing, Printing and the Book Trade, the Copyright Agency of the USSR and Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga, I'd like to express my hope that the current book festival in Moscow will make new sizable contributions to the expansion of cultural coopertion among nations for the sake of stable peace, in the name of the ideals of freedom and progress.

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Commemorating 40th Anniversary of V-Day

The further May 9, 1945, recedes into history, the more profoundly impressive becomes the victory achieved by the Soviet people. It is celebrated in books, articles, works of art, documentaries and feature films. In 1983, the anniversary was marked by no less than 84 publications; 208 were printed in 1984 and 254 books are due to be released in 1985. They run into a total of 33 million copies and include learned papers, popular books, documents, reference material and fiction, 546 titles in all.

Of most interest to the reading public are books of memoirs by such outstanding military commanders as Georgy Zhukov, Alexander Vasilevsky, Ivan Konev, Konstantin Rokossovsky, Ivan Bagramyan and Vasily Chuikov.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Alexander Vasilevsky dedicated his whole life to the service of his homeland. This is what his book is all about. It is filled with reminiscences about the war and work of the High Command General Headquarters and General Staff of the Soviet Army. Marshal Vasilevsky reserves his gratitude for the people who were instrumental in moulding him as a soldier and a commander—Mikhail Tukhachevsky, Boris Shaposhnikov, Mikhail Frunze, Kliment Voroshilov and other prominent generals. Called *Lifelong Cause*, the book has been reprinted five times, which is convincing evidence of the unabated public interest in books of this kind and in the personalities responsible for the victorious advance of the Soviet Army.

Books of the *War Memoirs* series are issued by Voyenizdat Publishers. Reminiscences of world-known Soviet military commanders will be translated into European languages, as well as into Vietnamese, Bengali and other languages.

The success of the memoirs can be ascribed to the heightened public interest in documentary books. Today's readers want to analyse, make comparisons and reach their own conclusions. They are certain to be attracted by the books issued by Politizdat Publishers: *Soviet-U.S. Relations During the Great Patriotic War : 1941—1945*, *Soviet-French Relations During the Great Patriotic War: 1941—1945*, *Soviet-British Relations During the Great Patriotic War; 1941-1945*. These two-volume editions provide an insight into international, political, diplomatic, and military developments and into the USSR's relations with the nations of the anti-Nazi coalition.

The Great Patriotic War sets out to give exhaustive information about the war. This encyclopaedia is printed by the Sovetskaya Entsiklopedia Publishers. In addition, Politizdat is at work on a glossary/handbook on World War II.

Yuridicheskaya Literatura Publishers have drawn upon the Nuremburg Trials files to produce a new book, *No Statutes of Limitations, No Oblivion*, an account of the heinous atrocities perpetrated by the Nazi invaders against the peoples of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland and other European countries as well as of crimes committed by Hitler and his clique against the German nation during World War II.

The book is an appeal for vigilance and for an intensified fight against imperialism, neo-Nazism, racism and any new Napoleons seeking world domination.

The Great Patriotic War is the subject of numerous learned papers. The defence of Odessa lasted 73 days before the city was overrun by the Germans. It took them 250 days of bloody fighting to take Sevastopol and the enemy's siege of Leningrad dragged on for 900 days and nights. The German offensive to seize Moscow, launched in early September 1941 and involving a huge mass of troops, was gaining momentum until early December, only to suffer a major setback, the first since the outbreak of the war.

What is the source of the Soviet people's incredible strength and their victory over fascism? The answer is provided in monographs on the Great Patriotic War in which is postulated the inevitability of the Soviet victory. The 27 volumes will have an estimated print run of 1.2 million crowning the years-long war studies by Soviet scholars. *The Second World War : A Concise History*, put out by Nauka Publishers, is a major work and a joint effort by scholars from the socialist countries.

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The war is also dealt with at length in such books as *A Critique of Major Concepts of Bourgeois Historiography of World War Two*, *The Second World War: Outcome and Lessons*, *The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union : 1941—1945. A Concise History* by Voyenizdat Publishers and the three-volume *Soviet Ukraine During the Great Patriotic War : 1941—1945* by Naukova Dumka Publishers.

Victory was forged not only on the battle-fields, but also in the rear, at plants, factories, collective farms and in the cornfields. Many partisan detachments also contributed to the defeat of the enemy. Books intended for the general public describe the selfless efforts of the Soviet people on the battle-field and on the home front, the contribution made by women and young people, and the Heroic Cities of Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Novorosisk and Sevastopol. It is planned to publish 87 books in editions totalling over three million copies.

The Great Patriotic War claimed the lives of 20 million Soviet people. The memory is still painful and this is the reason why books about the war are a staple of modern Soviet literature. 40-odd books of fiction will be put out by Sovetsky Pisatel Publishers. Among the authors are Mikhail Sholokhov, Alexander Chakovsky, Ivan Stadnyuk, Yury Bondarev, Georgy Markov and others.

Special series of books dealing with various subjects are now being prepared by Khudozhestvennaya Literatura Publishers. A two-volume collection of *The Poetry of the Great Patriotic War* and a four-volume series, *The Victory*, have also been slated for release. The first volume of the series features the best war stories by Soviet writers. The second volume is a collection of poetry and the third highlights war-time journalism. The fourth volume comprises works by writers from the socialist countries dealing with World War II and the Resistance Movement in European countries.

The Victory in the East a collective effort, will be put out by Khabarovsk Book Publishers. The book details the defeat of militaristic Japan.

Among the total of 89 art books about the Great Patriotic War, editions by Planeta Publishers such as the 4-volume *The Great Patriotic War in Photographs and Film Stills*, *The Great Patriotic War*, the photo albums *The Victory Parade*, *Marshal Georgy Zhukov* and *Marshal Semyon Budyonny* are some of the most attractive.

A photo album *The Great Patriotic War: 1941—1945*, printed by Eesti Raamat in Tallinn, tells of the exploits of the Soviet people looked in a deadly battle against Nazi Germany and its satellites. The book documents nearly four years of the fighting. In those years press photographers and cameramen shared the lot of soldiers and partisans. They immortalised the major events that entered into the annals of the historic exploit and recorded them for future generations. The book features photographs and documentary film stills by V. Arkashev, A. Yegorov, I. Krasutsky, A. Ustinov and other photographers as well as shots made by the Germans themselves.

The heroic deeds of the Soviet people are also depicted in paintings and drawings. Izobrazitelnoye Iskusstvo Publishers will produce two art albums—*Forever Alive* and *Adjimushkai* (a name given to a maze of subterranean stone quarries located within the boundaries of Kerch. Its fame derives from the stubborn resistance put up by about 10,000 Soviet troops fro May to October 1942 trapped underground following the evacuation of Soviet troops from the Kerch peninsular, and despite lack of electricity and drinking water, the Soviet soldiers carried on a desperate struggle for nearly half a year, spurning German suggestions that they capitulate). Sovetsky Khudozhnic Publishers will print the art album, *The Feat is Forty Years Old.*

Frequent mention is made in the reminiscences of war veterans of their favourite poetry books or stirring songs that helped them gain peace of mind during lulls in the fighting, pluck up extra strength and inspiration for the struggle. Popular wartime songs are still sung today. The song-books, *For the Soviet Homeland* and *Our Biography*, will be printed by the Muzyka and Sovetsky Kompozitor Publishers.

Mindful of the fact that the victory anniversary will be celebrated by the entire progressive community, publishers in the Soviet Union print many books aimed at foreign readers : 65 publications totalling 1.2 million copies will be printed soon. Of special interest among books to be issued by Progress Publishers are the English-language edition of *The Major Battles of the Soviet Army in World War Two*, *The Second World War : Fiction and Reality* by Oleg Rzheshevsky in English and Swedish, *On the Road to the Great Victory* by Vilnis Sipols and *Soviet Diplomacy in 1941—1945* in English, Danish and German.

Russky Yazyk Publishers are to put out a collection of fiction and poetry about the war called *Tragedies and Exploits*, A two-volume English-language edition of *Password : Victory* will be printed under the Raduga Publishers label. Avrora Publishers are preparing *Saved for Humanity : The Hermitage During the Siege*, a series featuring works of visual art, posters and postcards glorifying the tenacity of the Leningraders and depicting events of the war.

NELLIE STENISHCHEVA

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Voyenizdat: A Chronicle of Heroic Deeds

Last October the publishing house of the USSR Ministry of Defence celebrated its 65th anniversary. Voyenizdat came into its own as the Red Army grew and gained in strength. The truthful printed word armed our servicemen spiritually, helping them in their fighting against the counter-revolution and, later, against the "Black plague" of fascism.

Over the last war years the publishing house issued more than 200 titles totalling over 200 million copies. Nowadays, Voyenizadt publications serve as a reminder of the grim trials of wartime.

Here is an interview of VAAP-INFORM correspondent Nikolai Viskov with Lt.-Gen. Vasily Ryabov, Voyenizdat Board Chairman.

Q. Please tell us about the most important books about World War II, which have appeared in recent years.

A. The publication of the 12-volume *History of World War II, 1939-45*, highly acclaimed by war historians, presents an objective treatment of the origins of the war, its character, progress and outcome. Its authors give a persuasive expose of bourgeois falsifications about the war. The war theme predominates in the eight-volume *Soviet Military Encyclopaedia*, which also received critical acclaim not only in the Soviet Union, but outside it.

An enlarged edition of *The Great Patriotic War of the USSR: A Brief History* by the Institute of Marxism-Leninism under the CC CPSU was timed to appear on the 40th anniversary of Victory Day. Among other works whose publication has been timed for this occasion are *The Liberating Mission of the Soviet Armed Forces in Europe*, *Heroes of the Soviet Union*, a historical essay, and *The Great Patriotic War*, an album of photographs.

Q. In recent years there has been greater interest in eyewitness accounts and war veterans' reminiscences of major battles. What do you do about meeting the growing demand for war memoirs?

A. Over 1,700 titles of memoir literature have been recently brought out in the Soviet Union, with Voyenizdat's share exceeding 500 publications, among them such favourites as the memoirs of outstanding military commanders and war heroes Georgy Zhukov, Alexander Vasilevsky, Konstantin Rokossovsky, Ivan Konev, Ivan Bagramyan, Vasily Chuikov and many others. People of all age-groups read these books with a keen interest which is evidenced by the great number of stirring responses coming in from readers.

We also issue reminiscences written by the rank-and-file combatants—officers and men. Most of these books appear in *The Front Line Soldiers Narrate* series, or come out in a different format of collected stories, *By Land*, *At Sea and In the Air*.

Voyenizdat has recently put out an interesting book by Colonel Zinchenko, Hero of the Soviet Union. His men Yegorov and Kantaria were the first to reach the rooftop of the Reichstag and hoist the Victory Banner which is now treasured in Moscow. He wrote *The Heroes of the Reichstag Storming*, a book commissioned by Voyenizdat publishers.

As Soviet poet Nikolai Dorizo once put it, the Reichstag was stormed not only by the Soviet troops who happened to be in Berlin in the spring of 1945, but also by the many others who defended Brest, Moscow, Leningrad, Sevastopol and other Soviet cities. We remember those heroes. For instance, we have published two books by Marshal Nikolai Krylov, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union, entitled *The Stalingrad Line* and *The Glory Will Never Fade*, the memoirs dealing with the epic battle for Stalingrad and with the heroic defence of Odessa and Sevastopol.

Work has just got under way on a project involving the publication of memoirs on the postwar period and on the beneficiaries of Victory, who, four decades later, mount guard over the sacred cause of upholding peace. One of the latest publications, *All*

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A Literary Chronicle of the Great Victory

SOVREMENNIK Publishers, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, has prepared a 12-volume publication entitled The Wreath of Glory*—an anthology of literary and documentary works about the war. It is a unique work, unparalleled in world literature. Each volume includes literary texts (verses, short stories, fragments of poems, tales and novels), excerpts from the diaries of front-line troops, wartime journalism, and memoirs, and is accompanied by an introductory article and an afterword, by the comments of a military historian, and a reference section containing information about the authors, dates and a bibliography. The edition is arranged chronologically.*

In the early morning of June 22, 1941, without any declaration of war, Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Fierce fighting broke out along the entire front, stretching 3,500 kilometres from the Arctic to the Black Sea. The first volume of *The Wreath of Glory* covers the months immediately after the treacherous German attack (summer-autumn, 1941).

The frontier outposts and towns received the first blow; the defenders of Brest covered themselves with eternal glory, and their story is recounted in a fragment of Sergei Smirnov's book, *The Brest Fortress*.

The initial period of the war was a difficult one for the Soviet people: they felt the full force of Europe's most powerful military machine. Their thoughts and feelings at that time are reflected in Vasily Lebedev-Kumach's famous verse: "The people's war, the holy war is on."

From the very beginning of the war the Soviet people never lost their faith in the ultimate victory, and not without reason did the government proclaim: "Our cause is just. The enemy will be destroyed. We will win" (the first volume—like the subsequent volume—includes excerpts from various state papers).

The Soviet people showed their deep and powerful love for their country, but at the same time they learned the "science of hate" towards the invaders (after the title of Mikhail Sholokhov's famous essay). The whole nation was united as one man. It was not only conscripts who went off to fight, but also those who were below the official age for conscription. Yulia Drunina's poem, "I Left My Childhood", became a programme for all her generation—those 16-and 17-year-olds who were hardened on the front-line by their civic courage. Thousands of boys and girls gave their lives for their country's freedom, and Pavel Antokolsky's poem "Son" is a requiem to these young heroes.

From the first days of the war Soviet writers took their place in military units and the People's Voluntary Corps. One day they were writers, poets and playwrights— and the next, they had become war correspondents and officers and men of the Red Army. Of the thousand members of the All-Union Writers' Organization, over 200 were killed in action, including Arkady Gaidar, Yuri Krymov, Pyotr Lidov, Vladimir Stavsky, Yevgeny Petrov, Zakhar Khatzrevin and Boris Lapin...Their works are also included in the anthology. Soviet writers fought not only for the freedom of their country, but also to preserve the culture of the world. The danger facing it is described in the diary notes of Maria Shchegoleva, an employee of the Lev Tolstoy Museum Estate, which over a period of some two months was vandalized by the occupying German forces. These notes are entitled "The Black Days of Yasnaya Polyana".

Extracts from Vladimir Karpov's novel, *The Commander*, and Ivan Stadniuk's *The War* describe the intensive work undertaken to reconstruct the country's economy (under the slogan "Everything for the Front, everything for Victory!"); the evacuation of the civilian population and industrial enterprises; the organization of defence and the re-

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re-grouping of army units; the heroic defence of Kiev, Odessa and Sevastopol—everything which called for the complete mobilization of the country's physical and spiritual strength.

The defence of Moscow and the battle for the Soviet capital are the central episodes of the first phase of the war and are the subject of the second volume of the anthology. Thousands of Muscovites, together with units of the Red Army, rose in defence of their home town; these events are described in Yevgeny Dolmatovsky's poem "The People's Voluntary Corps" and in Marietta Shaginyan's essay "The Defence of Moscow" and they provided the inspiration for Mikhail Kulchitsky's agitating poem "Every House Is a Pillbox".

One of the most vivid episodes of the battle for Moscow was the feat of 28 soldiers of General Panfilov's rifle division, who fought heroically against the enemy's tank units (Alexander Bek's book *Volokolamskoye Highway* is dedicated to these men). Another unforgettable exploit was that of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Hero of the Soviet Union, an eighteen-year-old partisan girl who was executed by the Germans (Margarita Aliger's poem "Zoya"). Alexei Surkov, Konstantin Simonov, Mikhail Isakov and Savva Dangulov all paint a dramatic and majestic picture of the defence of Moscow and the Soviet counter-offensive. The memoirs of Marshal Zhukov and General Beloborodov portray the first major defeat suffered by the German Army, the end of the "Blitzkrieg", and the beginning of the turning-point in the war on the Eastern Front.

Another volume deals with the unprecedented 900-day blockade of Leningrad, the second largest industrial and administrative centre and the most important naval base on the Baltic coast. The city was seen by the Nazis as the key to the whole campaign: it was the site of the October Revolution and, if taken by the Germans, would, like the planned seizure of Moscow, have dealt a severe blow to the morale of the Soviet people. But at this point, operation Barbarossa failed as well. The heroism and patriotism of the Soviet people worked miracles: not for nothing was Ilya Ehrenburg's essay on the defenders of Leningrad entitled "The Pride of Russia". Extracts from Nikolai Chukovsky's novel *The Baltic Sky*, from *Blockade* by Alexander Chakovsky, and from *The Book of the Blockade* by Ales Adamovich and Daniil Granin help to conjure both the image of inhuman suffering and the courage of the people of Leningrad. Their heroic feat is also expressed in the poetry of Nikolai Tikhonov and Olga Bergholtz.

Although cut off by land and sea and caught in the grip of the encircling enemy forces, Leningrad held out and continued to fight (this is convincingly described in the memoirs of Marshals Zhukov and Govorov).

The director of the Hermitage, Academician Orbeli, gives a striking account of the steps taken to save the treasures of one of the world's greatest museums. There are also eye-witness accounts of the first performance in 1942 in the Leningrad Philharmonia (and the simultaneous broadcasting by the city's radio network) of Dmitry Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, which took place during an aerial and artillery bombardment.

But although the spirit of the defenders remained unshakeable, the cost was very high, particularly during the first winter of the blockade, 1941-42 (the poetess Vera Inber entitled her recollections about the blockade "This Terrible Winter"). A Leningrad schoolgirl, Tanya Savicheva, who later, along with all of her family, died of hunger, kept a diary through that winter, and her notes were presented as evidence at the Nuremberg Trials; these same notes also appear in the anthology.

Pain and suffering, courage and steadfastness, and an unshakeable faith in the coming victory all find expression in the various literary publications incorporated in *The Wreath of Glory*. This edition is undoubtedly a massive literary and documentary monument to the heroic exploits of the Soviet people.

V. LVOV
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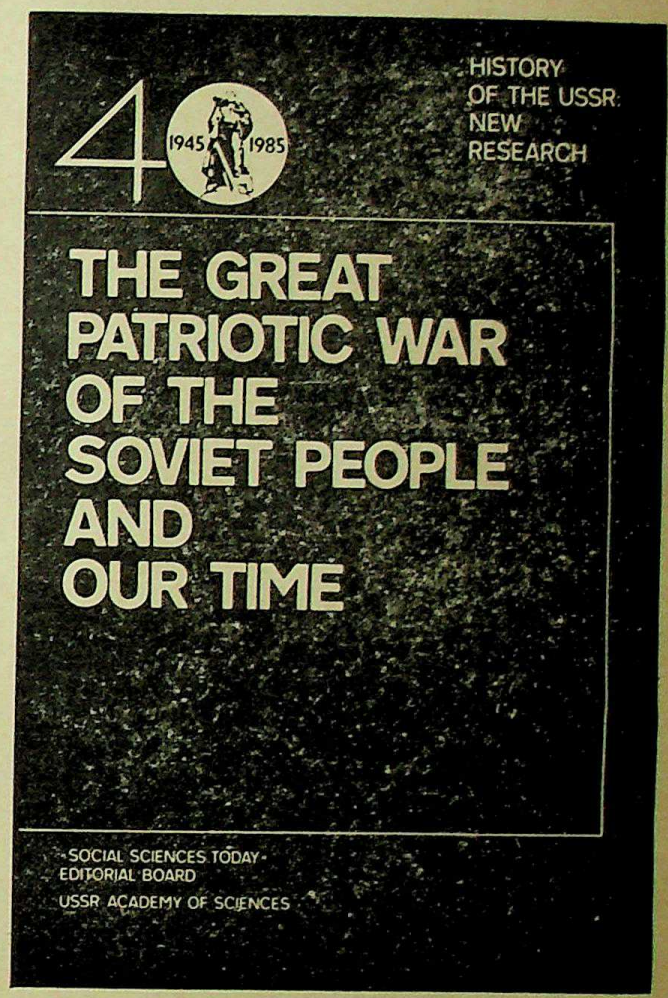
The Great Patriotic War and the Present Day

This collection has been published in English, Spanish, German, Portuguese, French and Arabic by the Editorial Board "Social Sciences and the Present Day" of the USSR Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the Institute of Military History of the USSR Ministry of Defence. The authors include eminent political and military figures.



What is of most interest to the reader in this important work? The efforts of the Soviet people and the operations of its armed forces during World War II are described in considerable detail. Of undoubted interest is the analysis of the causes, aims and nature of the world conflict (1939—45) and the historical processes at work in the pre-war years. The book demonstrates the confrontation between the socio-economic and political systems of the combatant nations, and there is an assessment of the contribution to the victory made by the people and army of every anti-Hitler coalition state and by all participants of the resistance movement.

Drawing on numerous documentary sources, the authors reveal the decisive role played by the Soviet people in the struggle and the victory over fascism—the very role which Western propaganda now tries to falsify or ignore. The collection contains a critical Soviet analysis of Western historiography relating to World War II.

World War II was the largest armed confrontation between two coalitions in history. More than 60 states, representing four-fifths of the world's population, participated in the conflict, which was fought over the territory of 40 states by more than 110 million combatants.

The Great Patriotic War began with the German invasion of the USSR on June 22, 1941. The Eastern Front became the main theatre of operations of the war. More than 50 million lives were lost, of which 40 per cent were Soviet casualties. The war removed thousands of towns and tens of thousands of villages from the face of the earth; it destroyed hundreds of thousands of factories and plants, and it left millions of widows, orphans and invalids. An ocean of grief and suffering remains long after the war. . .

The book analyses each phase of the war and shows the contribution of the armed forces, the partisans and underground, and the workers on the home front to the victory over the German invaders.

The decisive military and political event of the first phase of the war (1941—November 1942) was clearly the rout of the German forces at the approaches of Moscow, the first major German defeat in the war, which signalled the end of the "Blitzkrieg" and the beginning of the turning point in the course of the war. The Soviet victory in the Battle of Moscow hastened the formation and strengthening of the 28-nation anti-German coalition.

The turning point of the war came at the Battle of

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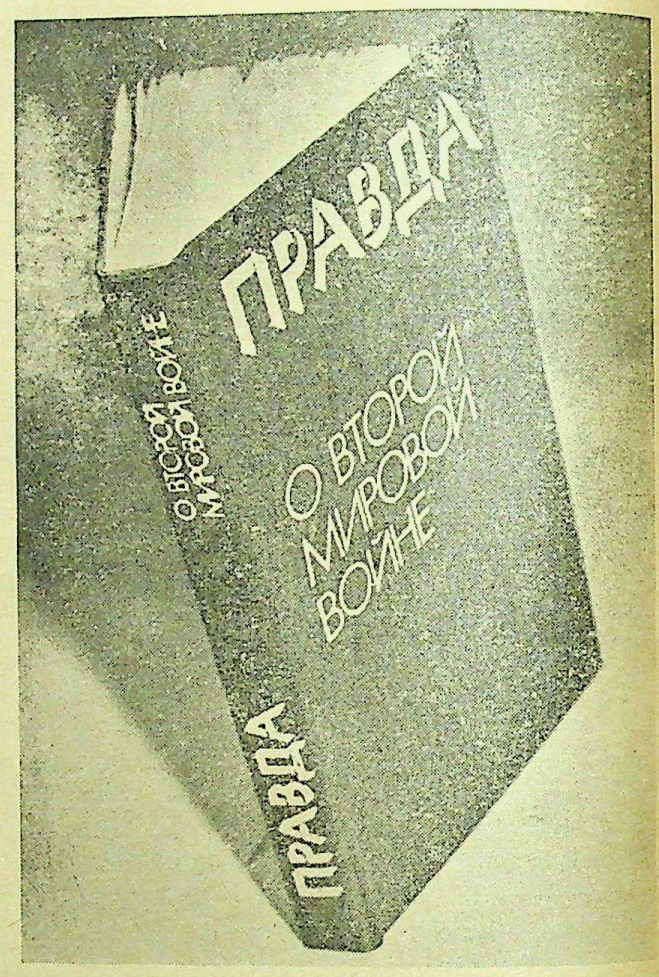
Truth and Falsehood about the War

VAAP-INFORM presents a work by E. N. Kulkov, O. A. Rzheshevsky and I. A. Chelyshev entitled Truth and Falsehood About the Second World War, *published by Voyenizdat, Moscow.*



Could World War II have been averted? Bourgeois historians reply in the negative, but, according to Marxist historical science, in the years prior to the war there was a real possibility of preserving peace. The authors describe the USSR's attempts to create a system of collective security which could have restrained the aggressors and averted the war. The Soviet Union conducted talks with Britain and France aimed at concluding a mutual-aid treaty, but the Western powers gave Hitler to understand that the USSR stood alone and that Germany could attack first Poland and then the Soviet Union, with no danger of any opposition from the West.

When Germany treacherously attacked the Soviet Union, Western politicians anticipated a rapid German victory. However, the first major battles, and especially the Battle of Moscow, showed that the "Blitzkrieg" had failed. The Wehrmacht was dealt a shattering blow before the gates of Moscow, the reasons for which are analysed in depth in the book.

Defence in depth, organized by the Supreme Command Headquarters, exhausted the attacking German forces in a series of battles throughout October and November 1941. The necessary conditions for the Soviet counter-offensive were created and, though outnumbered, the Soviet forces threw the Germans back from Moscow to a distance of between 100 and 250 kilometres.

The authors consider that Western historians are less than objective in their assessment of the reasons for this first major German defeat. They belittle the significance of the battles of Moscow, Stalingrad Kursk, and of other Soviet military operations, seeking to portray the events in such a way that the outcome of the war seemed to be determined not in the East but in the West, and the main contribution to the final victory was made not by the Soviet Army, but by British and American armed forces.

These "falsifiers" of the history of the war contend that the Soviet victory at Stalingrad would have been impossible without the support of the Western Allies: the "deficit of reserves"—in their words—which prevented the German High Command from achieving its goals on the Eastern Front in 1942 was due to the necessity of keeping huge forces in the West in order to repulse the anticipated landing of the Anglo-American expeditionary force.

However, this fact, as the authors note, does not stand up to a close examination. Before the Battle of Stalingrad, the Wehrmacht had 520,000 men stationed in France, while on the Eastern Front there were 2,997,000 men—almost six times as many. There was one German air fleet in the West and four in the East. At Stalingrad the Axis forces lost one quarter of their total strength in the East—amounting to almost 1.5 million officers and men. That victory was the turning

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point in the course of the war, but in an attempt to belittle this historical fact, Western historians resort to the unscientific theory of "decisive battles" and "turning points" in the war, according to which the outcome of the entire war was determined not by the defeat of the German Army's main forces on the Eastern Front but by a whole series of battles and military campaigns in various parts of the world. Adherents of this theory use every opportunity to exaggerate the importance of the Pacific and North African theatres where American and British forces were involved.

The authors produce many facts to refute such assertions. For example, Western historians regard the Battle of Midway, in June 1942, which allegedly forced the Japanese onto the defensive, as a decisive battle. In actual fact the damage inflicted on the Japanese fleet—four aircraft-carriers and a heavy cruiser destroyed—was not serious enough to noticeably affect the course of the war. It should also be remembered that throughout the North African campaign, from July 1940 to May 1943, only 12 German and Italian divisions were destroyed.

Western assertions that from the summer of 1944 onwards "France became the main theatre of military operations" are shown to be completely unjustifiable: in June 1944 there were 4.3 million Axis troops on the Eastern Front, while in Italy and France there were about one million men. The fact that the Second Front was not opened until 1944 is eloquent proof of the delaying tactics employed by Britain and the US.

The value of this book lies, most of all, in its strict attention to factual evidence. It draws broadly on the public speeches of Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill, and of other well-known figures, on the memoirs of Soviet and foreign military commanders, academic research, and the recollections of journalists and others who participated directly in the war. The book is consequently a valuable and cognitive work and reads with unabated interest.

YELENA BARSOVA
VAAP-INFORM

Voyenizdat: A Chronicle of Heroic Deeds

Continued from page 12

Oceans Within Easy Reach by Vasily Grishanov, tells about the round-the-world journeys of Soviet submarines, including the cruise to the Arctic Pole. The author gives a sympathetic portrayal of the seamen who keep a watchful eye on anything that might disrupt the peaceful life of the Soviet people.

Q. What do you think makes memoirs so entrancing?

A. Above all, they are well-documented and true-to-life. Readers' attention is arrested by eyewitness accounts of earth shattering events, by the sincerity and empathy of their presentation. It would be wrong to assume that these books are intended exclusively for readers with a military background. They have a universal appeal. And what really matters is that today these books are read by young people who can only draw on the combat experiences of their fathers and who revere the memory of their exploits and seek to absorb their indomitable will power, moral values and ideals.

Q. Apart from memoirs, is there anything else Voyenizdat offers to young readers?

A. We run a special *Library of the Young Patriot* that focuses on the daring feats of young heroes. The titles speak for themselves. For instance, *Partisan Eaglets* by Vladimir Yakovenko is a book describing feats of valour performed by guerilla teenagers in Byelorussia during the Great Patriotic War.

Recent editions in this series include *The Dockyard Side* by Galina Drobot, *Armour Ablaze* by Sergei Isachenko and others. With young readership in mind, we published the *Everything the Young Reader Should Know About the Soviet Armed Forces* series. Basically, these are illustrated magazines depicting crucial stages in the history of our Armed Forces.

Most of the fiction books, of which we put out over 60 annually, are also aimed at a young audience. For example, we regularly reprint *The Story of a Real Man*, a best-seller by Boris Polevoi. In answer to readers' requests, Voyenizdat has brought out in huge printings the works by Mikhail Sholokhov, Nikolai Ostrovsky, Alexei Tolstoi, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Georgy Markov, Konstantin Simonov, Rasul Gamzatov and other Soviet authors.

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Children's Literature: Facts and Figures

More than one hundred Soviet publishers (out of a total of 214) publish literature for children.

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Over 500 million copies of books for children are published annually in the 51 languages of the peoples of the USSR.

.....

About 120,000 books for young readers are issued every hour by our publishers, almost one and a half million every day.

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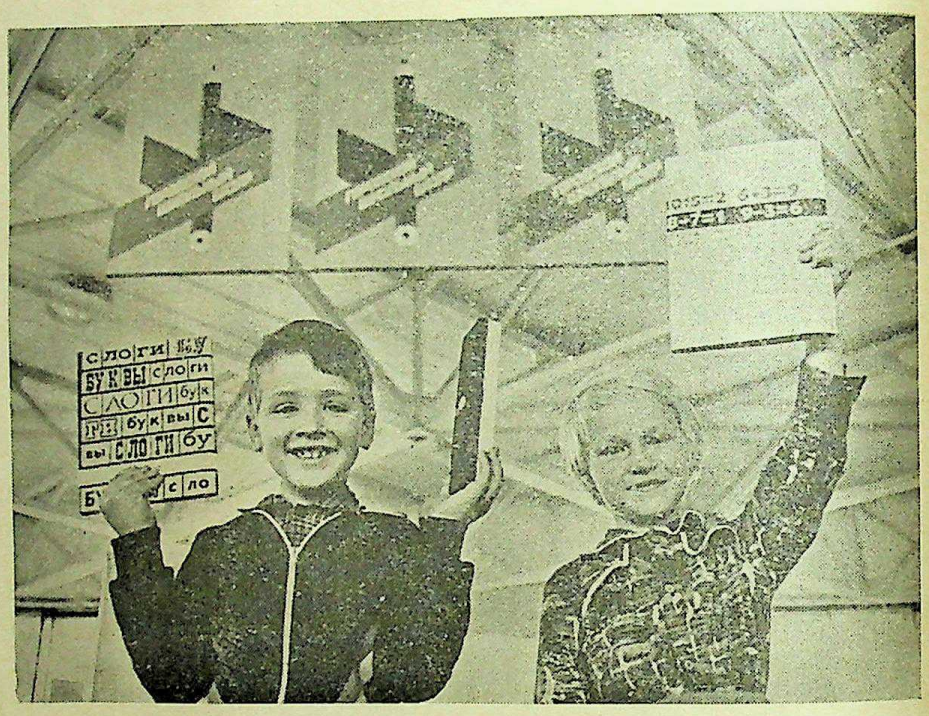
The country's major printing-works in terms of books for children is Detskaya Kniga No. 1, in Moscow; its daily output is 300 thousand books.

.....

There are 11 specialized publishers in the country which only produce books for children and adolescents.

.....

Detskaya Literatura, the Moscow publishers, is the biggest firm of its kind in the USSR and in Europe. It specializes in books on different subjects for readers aged between 2 and 17. Each year it publishes 600 titles in a general printing of 230 million copies. Its most popular series are "For the Very Young",



"My First Books", "We Read On Our Own", "Fairy-tale after Fairy-tale", "Heroes of Our Time".

.....

Malysh, the Moscow publishers, specializes in books for children of preschool age and for junior schoolchildren. It publishes up to 300 titles in a general printing of 100 million copies a year. Malysh produces picture-books, toy books, transfers, colouring books, bricks with pictures.

Soviet children's literature is multinational. Each Soviet Republic prints works by writers representing all the peoples of the USSR. The major publishers, Detskaya Literatura (Russian Federation) and Veselka (Ukraine) issue about 60 titles by authors from the different Union republics every year.

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Books for children of all ages are issued by the specialized publishers Esh Gvardia (Uzbekistan); Zhalyn (Kazakhstan); Nakaduli (Georgia); Gyandjlik (Azerbaijan); Virtuis (Lithuania).

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Continued on page 21

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A JOURNEY INTO CHILDHOOD

Half a century has passed since the foundation of Detgiz (now Detskaya Literatura*) Publishers. Maxim Gorky himself was directly responsible for organizing the enterprise, while Lenin's wife and companion Nadezhda Krupskaya always watched over the early days of Detgiz and actively helped in its work. Initially, Detgiz concentrated almost entirely on Russian children's literature, but with the rise of a multinational culture in the Soviet Union, the appearance of the minorities' written languages and subsequently literatures among the people inhabiting the former Russian borderlands, the publishing house established a special editorial section for the literatures of the various Soviet nationalities. Soviet children's literature would be inconceivable now without the works of Nodar Dumbadze from Georgia, Chinghis Aitmatov from Kirghizia, the Avar poet Rasul Gamzatov, and Yuri Rytkheu, a Chukchi.

Today there are editorial departments dealing with numerous areas of publishing: contemporary Russian literature for children under school age; for younger school children; for teenagers and for young adults; editorial departments for the national literatures of the USSR; for foreign countries, for historical, popular scientific and adventure literature and journalism; for books aimed at aesthetic education; for literary criticism and for bibliographies. There is also an editorial department dealing with literary debutantes, and a House of Children's Books which studies the interests of the reading public and the life of a book after its publication.

The contents and subject matter of the books published are of the widest variety. A major undertaking is the 50-volume *Library of World Literature*, which should be completed in 1986. The same year will see the publication of the last of ten volumes in the series. *The Schoolchild's Library: The Life of Lenin.* One recent publication is a beautifully-presented book by the famous children's writer Sergei Mikhalkov entitled *Comrades Children*; Anatoly Alexin is preparing for publication of a collection of stories relating to the activities of both young and adult workers on the home front during the Second World War.

The famous *Library of Adventure and Science Fiction* —the favourite edition of several generations of teenagers—was founded as long ago as the 1930s, while in the late 1940s the *Golden Library*, containing the best of Soviet writers, was first published. This series of books has included works by Mikhail Sholokhov, Rasul Gamzatov, Lev Kassil and Albert Likhanov, and all writers consider it a great honour to have a book published in this series.

Another of the publishers' aims is to acquaint its young readers with great thinkers of the past and their ideas on the most important questions of life, in order to help children form their own view of the world. Among these philosophical works are: Montaigne's thoughts *On the Art of Living with Dignity*—intended for high-school children; biographies of Plato and Aristotle; the collected works of Rousseau; and books about leading Soviet and foreign scholars. All of these publications are part of the series *People. Time. Ideas.*

Works by foreign authors are published in massive editions by Detskaya Literatura. These books are very popular with Soviet youth and they help to broaden their understanding of life of young people all over the world.

The conditions in which the publishing house works have undergone a fundamental change over the past half-century, and there has been an unprecedented increase in editions published. The series *My First Little Books*, for example, has now reached two million copies. With the publication of such vast editions it is impossible to issue books of anything less than the very highest quality, both in terms of artistic level and irreproachable good taste.

The "service record" of Detskaya Literatura Publishers makes impressive reading: Grand Prix winner at the 1937 Paris International Exhibition, Gold Medal at the 1958 Brussels World Fair, The Golden Letter for the most attractive book at the 1979 Leipzig competition, the 1976 Bologna Prize for Children's Literary Criticism, the Golden Apple in Bratislava—on more than one occasion, the highest awards at numerous exhibitions and book competitions in the USSR, and this is far from being a full list of honours.

Children come into contact with books from Detskaya Literatura at an early age; these books grow up with the children and sometimes leave them slightly behind, calling after the children to follow; they remain true friends and companions throughout childhood.

Detskaya Literatura is the world's largest publishing house specializing in literature for children of all ages.

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Children! How I envy you

"The child is the most exacting and 'hard - to - please' reader," says Vasily Golov, director of the Malysh (Child) Publishing House. "So much depends on the book which falls into his hands that it doesn't have the right to be mediocre." Coming from him, these words seem particularly convincing to me, for millions of children from all around the world thank this man in their letters for good books.

While he was telling me about the publishing house, Vasily Golov carefully held out to me various Malysh publications, and as I looked through them I thought to myself, "Children! How I envy you—you have all these books to read still."

The very name of our publishing house speaks of its reading audience—we publish books for young children. Just one quarter of our annual production is intended for junior school children, and the rest is addressed to those who are just being introduced to books.

The publishing house releases 600 titles a year, and is proud of its pop-up books and its variety of pasteboard books. You open the book and before your eyes a large, lifelike hare incessantly jabbering about his 'heroic deeds', or a brightly dressed crow with a cheese, who has completely lost her head from the compliments paid to her rises up

A little boy with a "Malysh" fairy-tale book.

from the flat leaf of the page. These are our toy-books. Our pasteboard books can be "read" even by those who do not yet know the alphabet, the colourful pictures forming themselves into a single topic.

The heart of the writer and the imagination of the artist plus brilliant polygraphic work—this is what Malysh books are.

Great popularity has recently been enjoyed by colouring books, table-top games and posters.

Traditionally, we release serialised publications, and I would like to single out the series "Tales of a Friendly Family"—of the peoples of the Russian Federation, "Tales of the Fifteen Sisters"—of the fifteen republics of the Soviet Union, and "Pages from the History of Our Motherland", which, for many, is their first acquaintance with the history of the USSR. In the "Kindergarten Library" series we release mainly classical fairy-tales.

Hardly anyone can imagine a children's book without illustrations, and Malysh publications are to a great extent indebted to the level of design and illustration for their popularity. Here, the service of Yevgeny Rachev, our chief book designer, People's Artist of the RSFSR, is unquestionable. Such expert illustrators as Anatoly Kokorin, Veniamin Losev, Tatyana Mavrina, Mai Miturich, Mikhail Skobelev, Nikolai Ustinov and other famous artists are regular contributors too.

The publishing house fulfils many orders from the Mezhdunarodnava Kniga foreign-trade association. More than 100 titles in 20 languages with a total print in excess of two million are released every year, and are read by children in 50 countries in all the continents.

The Moscow International Book Fairs noticeably facilitate the broadening of links with foreign publishers. At the 1983 Fair alone, Malysh concluded advance contracts with representatives from 46 countries under the mediation of Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga. Our Polish colleagues ordered 25 titles, the Yugoslavs and Cubans—20 each, the Czechoslovaks—19, Progress Books of Canada—24, and Imported Publications of the USA—16.

We have established sound links with Globus Publishers of Austria, Kultura Publishers of Hungary, LKG (Leipziger Komissions und Grossbuchhandel) of the German Democratic Republic, Hemus of Bulgaria, CDL (Central Distribuidora Livreira) of Portugal, and with some British and Finnish publishing houses.

Publishers from Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Syria, as well as other developing countries, are among those who order from Malysh. India annually imports several hundred thousand copies of children's books.

Annual meetings with the representatives of foreign firms have become traditional. At these meetings we adjust our commercial plans ac-

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cording to demand and define the titles of our publications and the size of printings. Most of all our clients are interested in toy-books, Russian and Soviet children's classics, and fairy-tales.

We also publish quite a lot of "serious" literature for children. These are books of a publicistic nature which talk about work and the choice of a profession or trade, and include such titles as *The Taiga Near the Yenisei* by Viktor Astafyev, *The Fir Tree Brook* by Yuri Kazakov, and *All My Life I've Been Playing With Dolls* by the well-known Soviet puppeteer Sergei Obraztsov. Poems by several young poets have made up a collection called *Streams*. For these poets, Malysh is opening up the way into children's literature.

We often turn to works by foreign authors. As a rule, these are the classics—the fairy-tales of Charles Perrault, the brothers Grimm, and Hans Christian Anderson. *The Game of Riddles* by the modern Bulgarian writer Asen Bosev has come out in Sergei Mikhalkov's translation.

Every year we hold a competition for the best book. The 1983 winners were: *The Road to Sokolniki* by Yuri Yakovlev, the collection of fairy-tales *On the Sea and on the Ocean*, *Tales About Lenin* by Sergei Alekseev, *Forest Tales* by Nikolai Sladkov, and Pushkin's *Fairy Tales*.

The children's book is a most important means of forming and developing the child's personality. It introduces the child to the beautiful, and to the history and culture of various countries and peoples.

NELYA STENISCHEVA

The Great Patriotic War and the Present Day

Continued from page 15

Stalingrad, where a 330,000-strong enemy force was destroyed.

In the final phase of the war (January 1944—May 8, 1945) the victories of the Soviet Army clearly demonstrated that the Soviet Union was capable of destroying the enemy and liberating the people of Europe, without the participation of Anglo-American forces. Faced with this situation the United States and Britain had to carry out their promise to open a second front.

Having completed the defeat of Germany (the German High Command signed the act of unconditional surrender on May 8, 1945, the Soviet Union, fulfilling its obligation, entered the war against Japan. The Soviet Army, in a lightning campaign of 24 days, routed the main Japanese land forces—the million-strong Kwantung Army—and brought about the unconditional capitulation of Japan, which signalled the end of both the Great Patriotic War and World War II.

In reckoning the lessons of the war the authors remind us once again that any attempt by imperialist powers to resort to force in their historical argument with socialism is doomed to failure. At the same time, the events of 1939-45 teach us that now more than ever we must join together in an active and co-ordinated movement to avert a new war and to stand up for peace.

IOSIF SHIFRIN
VAAP-INFORM

Children's Literature

Continued from page 18

There are 40 publishers in the country issuing ABCs and textbooks for schoolchildren. ABCs are published in the USSR in 89 languages in a general printing of 5 million 500 thousand copies a year.

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Best works of foreign contemporary and classical literature for children are published in the languages of the peoples of the USSR. These are Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, James Fenimore Cooper, Charles Perrault, Rudyard Kipling, Gianni Rodari, A. A. Milne, A. Lindgren, to name but a few.

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Raduga Publishers (Moscow) specialize in literature for adults and children in foreign languages. Last year it published 237 titles for children in a general printing of over 6 million copies in 40 foreign languages.

Each year foreign publishers acquire copyrights for 140-145 works of Soviet children's literature.

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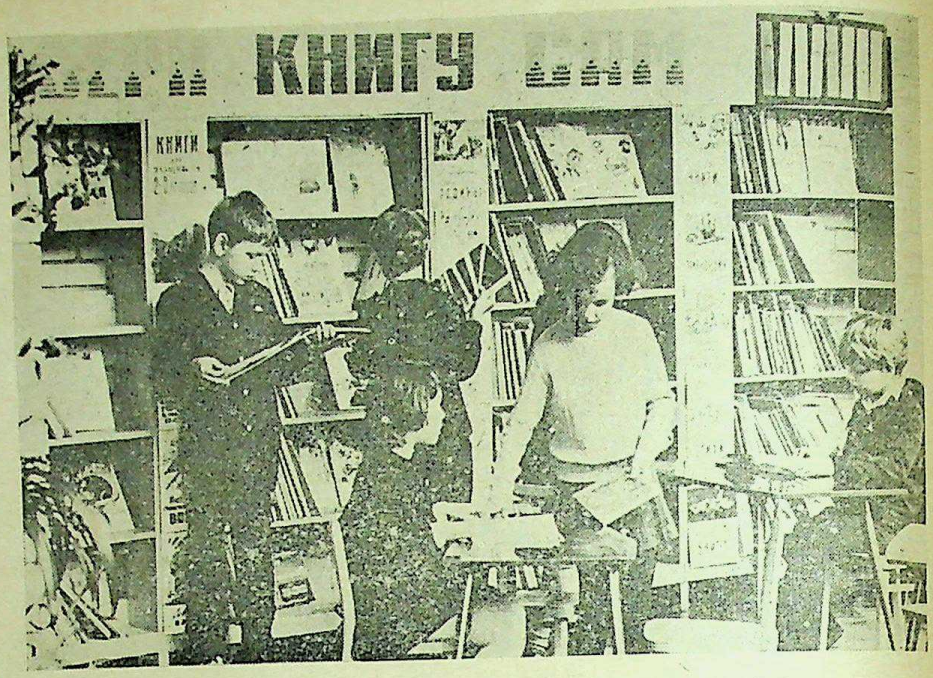
In Search of Tomorrow



Every Soviet child has a library of its own

What are the current problems confronting Soviet children's science fiction?

In recent years works of science fiction for children and young adults have begun to abandon their former function of widely disseminating scientific knowledge (this function has been taken over by popular science literature and television). Science fiction for children has begun to abandon its role as the link connecting laboratory, factory floor and reader and to rid itself of its preoccupation with describing the technical aspects of inventions; and every kind of machine and device on earth and in space. In the past this was regarded as the main, if not obligatory objective of science fiction for the young reader. Children's science fiction is becoming socially and morally more responsible, it makes every effort to deal with the serious problems of our day and age, seeking for this new literary methods.

In an issue of *Literatura dlya Detei* (Literature for Children), it was remarked that "...in all circumstances of complex and quickly-changing life, one must do one's duty as a human being before others and oneself. Today there is no age that is free of this obligation. Even children must do their duty...".

And this is true for the renowned Soviet science fiction writers the brothers Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, who in their works always remain faithful to their duties. On New Year's Eve, the hero of their *A Tale of Friendship and Unfriendliness*, a fourteen-year-old boy named Andrei T. receives a mysterious message that his best friend, Genka Abrikos, has gotten into trouble. Obeying the sacred law of friendship, Andrei embarks on a journey in the course of which, in keeping with the canon of fairy-tale ordeals, he must go through fire and water. But what is most important for the hero is to overcome fear, to stand up to frightening solitude and sensible circumspection. Only then, the authors argue, can a person become mature, can he mould his character.

Analogous problems are wrested with in the story *A Guy from Hell*. The story's hero, Gag, a member of the Battling Cats, the name of shock troops of the Great Duke, the ruler of planet Gigand, lands on Earth. Confronting the reader are two morals: the humanism and selflessness of the Earth people, and the cold and cruel conviction of a youth educated in a military academy in the correctness of a natural division of people into those who must be killed in the name of the Duke and those who hold the right to do the killing.

It seems as though the psychological experiment of the Earth people aimed at re-educating Gag is unsuccessful: Gag seizes an Earth ship headed for Gigand and returns to his home. But in the end we discover that the hero nevertheless begins to realize that in the world there are other truths, truths more lofty than service of the Great Duke.

The teaching of proper social and civic conduct is an important element of today's science fiction for children. More and more often children's science fiction raises serious issues, though not through imitation of adult science fiction but by obeying the moral imperatives expressed in the words about the obligation of young adults.

"Wake up! Living amongst you are Good and Evil. We must, must, must uphold Good." With this unsubtle little song the Clown, one of the main characters of Svetlana Yagupova's *A Green Dolphin*, sets the tone for the entire story. Good is represented by Auntie Knep, the Clown, Lanjo the electrician, the inventor of a magical apparatus called the phonochron which can listen to the inner voice of objects, the Poet, the Artist and the Violinist. Also there is the Courageous Skipper, the personification of the romantic life of sea adventurers, and Don Quixote, Rom and Julia, the immortal heroes of immortal books, eternal symbols of nobleness and the loftiness of human feelings. Evil is

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found in the country of Sondaria, where the action of the story takes place. In this country it is not people who are the object of respect and esteem, but their bank accounts. Also, the people of this country are forbidden to engage in art and poetry because art and poetry inspire thoughts about the strange and unrealizable and lead to a violation of all standards, from dress and speaking to thinking.

Through their own experience, the twins Alt and Charlie realize how horrible it is when "people forget how to dream and fantasize, their eyes begin to lose their lustre and close, and their souls are overgrown with moss". But in Sondaria there are those in whom "warm hearts beat". Because of this, they are "capable of igniting stars". These people fight for their own freedom and the right to dream, against oppression and spiritlessness, lies, falsehoods and money-grubling, for man.

In the story the real is interwoven with the make-believe, complementing and enriching each other. Thus a world is born in which the realness of the characters, the vitality of the conflicts and the social bearing are not downplayed but on the contrary emphasized. The charm of the story is akin to that of all works of art dictated by true humaneness and love for people.

In a large proportion of modern children's science fiction the theme has to do with outer space or contacts with representatives of other civilizations. In these works the socio-psychological "invariants" of the hero are exposed in extraordinary, extreme situations which were aptly described by Stanislaw Lem when he said, "The unknown awaits us among the stars." *Illegal Planet*, a novel by Evgeny Voiskunsky and Isai Lukodyanov, possesses all the external signs of space science fiction. It tells about the study, exploration and adapting for man of planets of the solar system, about solving riddles of Pluto, establishing contact with its inhabitants and with the mysterious civilization of biophores, and about much more.

In this tale the authors are guided by the momentous task of showing the society of the future as the result of the interaction of three factors: scientific and technological, social, and moral progress, with the greatest emphasis on the last factor. In the end one of the book's main heroes, Alexei Morozov, dies while protecting his friend and fellow-member of the space expedition.

For children's science fiction heroic action is of extreme importance, for all young people by nature are inclined to heroic deeds. Heroic deeds can appear as the high point of human strength, as the resultant force of man's best qualities, as they do in the novel by Voiskunsky and Lukodyanov or in *Alyona's Asteroid*, a science fiction tale by Leningrad writer Dymov.

In *Alyona's Asteroid*, the writer presents the world of the future clearly and colourfully, using one of the perhaps most difficult methods of narration, telling the story through the person of the hero, eight-year-old Alyona Kovaleva. In worlds of the future as represented by *Illegal Planet* and *Alyona's Asteroid*, there is always a place for heroic deeds. Such deeds as if accumulated during the process of growing up, from earliest childhood. Traditional genres, in particular adventure novels, continue to be developed. Adventure novels are good only when the characters behave naturally, when their actions are psychologically motivated. In full keeping with these criteria is *The Wanderers' House*, a novel by Moscow science fiction writer Alexander Mirer (in an interview by Arkady Strugatsky, cosmonaut Konstantin Feoktistov called this novel one of the best works of Soviet science fiction of the seventies: *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, 24 August 1977).

The name of the first part of the book, "The Important Noon", is symbolic. Here noon, the dividing line of day, represents the moment in a person's life when something significant happens, and that person does something of great consequence. In the novel this moment was the decision of the young heroes to fight the cruel creatures from a distant planet who had already conquered many worlds. In a dramatic battle with the monsters the author is not afraid to burden his heroes with the heavy load of responsibility. After all, he believes in them, has confidence in their fairness, bravery, moral steadfastness. And the young reader, by identifying himself with the heroes and becoming a participant in exciting adventures, pays back the author with his loyalty. The victory of the heroes is determined not at all by the usual "need" for a happy ending, but by the fearlessness of the heroes, their constant helping of each other, their understanding that the fate of their planet depends on the success of their actions. The moral lessons of Mirer's novel will do the young readers good, reminding them that friendship and solidarity help overcome all difficulties.

Children's science fiction today is characterized by a search for new topical problems and a widening of the range of ideological and ethical issues. It is not by chance that in it we are witnessing the rise to the surface of ethical elements (which have always been the main content of Russian classical and Soviet children's literatures) and the emergence of a new type of hero, one who personifies the moral ideal, a person always active, deep-thinking, and truly human. Modern children's science fiction helps boys and girls to understand the meaning of our day and age, to find their place in life. What is most important, it teaches them responsibility for the future which they must build.

VLADIMIR GOPMAN
VAAP-INFORM

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The Shortest Route

VAAP-INFORM correspondent Nelya Stenishcheva reports on the book series Scientists for Schoolchildren.

The range of interests of modern-day secondary school students is vast and varied. Their interests span quantum mechanics and electronics, history and philosophy, foreign policy and the composition of water, the structure of proteins and the cultivation of cotton. Where can they learn about all these things?

School textbooks fail to keep up with scientific progress. Although they contain many facts, their coverage very soon appears to be outdated. On the one extreme, academic journals provide too complex an explanation, and the press, on the other extreme, only probes the surface. Where, then, can schoolchildren turn to for specialized knowledge?

This question was given some thought by Academician Igor Petryanov-Sokolov and the editors of Pedagogika Publishers. They concluded that schoolchildren would best be helped by receiving their knowledge from a primary source—directly from scientists. And so the series *Scientists for Schoolchildren* was initiated. The series' creator, Igor Petryanov-Sokolov, wrote the first book of the series, called *The Most Unusual Substance in the World*, which in an easy-to-read style tells about water. The book was sold out as soon as it hit the stands, which provided a great boost for both the author and the publishers. This quick success meant that direct contact between scientists and schoolchildren was possible and necessary. In 1974 (when the series first appeared) two books were published, followed by three the next year. Since 1980 five books a year have been published, and plans are in the works to increase this number to six editions a year.

"The generation that is to replace us," says Academician Petryanov-Sokolov, "must read good books. It is precisely for this reason that I attach much importance to popular-science literature; for indeed, it informs schoolchildren about the achievements of scientists in various branches of knowledge. I expended great efforts on the creation of the *Scientists for Schoolchildren* series and am heartened by the fact that many top Soviet scientists have already contributed to it and told about the achievements of Soviet and world science, in a serious and precise way."

From Academician Vladimir Kirillin's book *Power Engineering Today and Tomorrow* schoolchildren have learned about the scale and areas of development of power engineering in the 20th century. *The Wonder of This Century*, a work by Academician Nikolai Basov, winner of Lenin and Nobel prizes, and Yuri Afanasyev, Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, talks about lasers. Another book, *How Physicists Work*, by Academician Arkady Migdal, gives an account of research in the field of vacuum, and Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Ivan Laptev's work, *A Test of Reason*, reports on the problems arising out of the interaction of society and nature.

Needless to say, six books a year contain too little space to illuminate the inexhaustible heap of problems on which modern scientists work. It would be futile to attempt to shed light on them all; nevertheless, the young explorers into unknown fields need to know about at least the basic trends of science. The most formidable challenge faced by the series' editors is to select important trends but without omitting those of global significance and without getting lost in details. How is this search being carried out?

"The series was conceived for leading scientists," says Nadezhda Gabisonia, a scientific editor for Pedagogika Publishers. "We find out which developments have been awarded prizes and which are at the stage of being resolved. We are in constant contact with the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences—a reliable compass and the best source of information. For the most part we start our search not with a subject but with an individual, for a new trend is started by an individual scientist. We try to give the series a multiform character, which is the major difficulty we confront in our work. Sometimes a scientist will write on a popular subject, making the book designed for all young readers; another time one of the series' books will deal with a narrow problem and be aimed at a smaller circle of readers. Whatever the case, the books are sold out momentarily. Our editions must be accessible to all and at a level of difficulty that takes into account the abilities of secondary school students."

It should be mentioned that it is not all that easy to be added to the list of authors of the series. As one academician jokingly pointed out, one must be published in the *Scientists for Schoolchildren* series to become an authority. The series' growing popularity, its large circulation (200,000 copies), small volume (about 100 pages), pocket format and the opportunity it provides for telling about one's field of work all make it very tempting to scientists.

A great many authors send in applications for their works to be accepted as part of the series, but only a handful are accorded this honour. Everything is taken into account, particularly the credentials of the applicant. Even today it is a rarity to find a Doctor of Science among the authors; most of them are world-renowned members of the Academy. Another important criterion of

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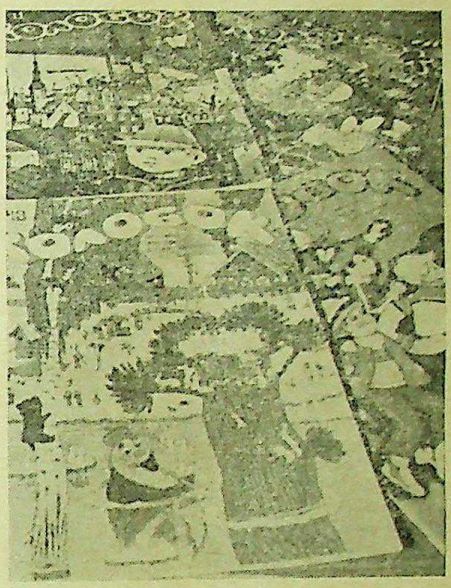
From Three to Fifteen

Soviet Children's Periodicals

Every morning postmen in cities, big and small, in towns, villages and out-of-the-way places deliver more than forty million copies of colourful magazines and newspapers. This sea of periodical publications is received by children who are still too young to read and teenagers who are troubled by such adult problems as how the world is set up, who and what to become and who to imitate in life. Maxim Gorky, during a discussion with Lev Kassil on how to develop Soviet children's literature, called it a "Great Power". Children's periodicals, which directly take part in the creation of future books for children and actively influence the formation of the minds of the coming generation, have been rightly called the second "Great Power" and have their own unique history. Among those who helped to found Soviet children's periodicals were Nadezhda Krupskaya, wife and comrade of Lenin, and an educator, the writers and teachers Samuil Marshak, Kornei Chukovsky and Boris Zhitkov, the young journalists and Young Pioneer leaders Mikhail Stremyakov and Nikolai Bogdanov, and many others.

Sixty years have passed since the release of the first magazine for children, *Baraban*. It was soon followed by *Pioner*, *Pionerskaya Pravda* and *Murzilka*. Over these years many searches were made for new ideas, failures were encountered, and new publications replaced old. Today in the Soviet Union there exists an integral and varied system of central and republican periodical publications that caters to almost all age groups and satisfies their various interests and passions.



Kolobok magazine

Children's newspapers and magazines make every effort to answer all the questions young readers might have, to satisfy their craving for knowledge, help them choose their future professions and instil in them all the high qualities of man. This goal can be accomplished by the pen of a writer, the brush of an artist or the music of a composer who dedicate their labour and talent to children.

The first magazine a child will become familiar with is *Vesyolye Kartinki*, which has a circulation of 9 million copies. Pictures accompanied by short texts familiarize the child with the surrounding world, introduce him to Nature, animals, plants, life in the country, new constructions

Pioner magazine

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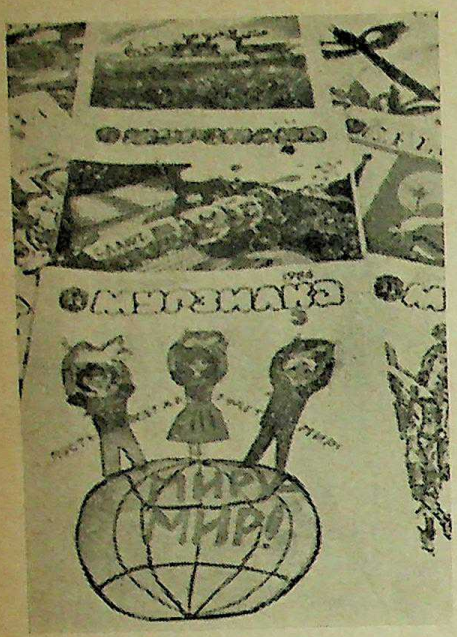

Murzilka magazine

and machines. All of this is done in an entertaining manner, through the adventures of the magazine's heroes. Fairy tales, riddles, tongue-twisters and facetious sayings help the child to more quickly learn his native tongue and comprehend its beauty.

Also for pre-schoolers is the magazine *Kolobok*, which has a circulation of 330,000. It also contains fairy tales, stories and poems, like *Vesyolye Kartinki*, but with the addition of a record insert on which is recorded gay children's songs and works of literature read orally. As soon as a new children's song is recorded it is learnt at home or in kindergarten and performed by children's choirs at holidays.

Upon entering school, the child is ready for another magazine, *Murzilka* whose circulation is 5,700,000. It is intended for junior schoolchildren, and is a bit more serious than *Vesyolye Kartinki* and *Kolobok*. *Murzilka* presents, in addition to fairy tales, Russian epics and stories, complete adventure stories, ballads and poems. Contributing to the magazine are leading adult and children's writers. The magazine has a letters section that publishes some of the more interesting letters received from the young leaders in which they tell about their own lives, conducts lessons on health and gives useful advice on sports. Contests, including one for the best drawings by children, is another of *Murzilka's* regular features.

Pioner, a Moscow magazine with a circulation of 1,600,000, and *Kostyor*, a Leningrad publication with a circulation of 780,000, cater to kids between the ages of ten and fifteen.

Pioner, which was started sixty years ago, is the oldest of the publications for children. Its history is

Vesyolye Kartinki magazine

connected with the brightest chapters of children's literature. All famous Soviet children's writers contributed their stories, novels, poems and tales to this magazine. Among them were Vladimir Mayakovsky, Eduard Bagritsky, Sergei Mikhalkov, Samuil Marshak, Mikhail Prishvin, Kornei Chukovsky, Konstantin Paustovsky, Ruvim Fraerman, Arkady Gaidar, Lev Kassil, and many more. Today their tradition is being followed by such much read writers as Albert Likhanov, Vladislav Krapivin, Vladimir Zheleznikov, Maria Prilezhaeva and Zoya Voskresenskaya. Leading children's writers and new talent also write for *Kostyor*.

Pioner and *Kostyor* essentially contain the same wide range of materials, with the sole difference that *Pioner* is oriented towards children of 12 to 15, while *Kostyor* is for the 10 to 11-year-olds. The magazines' broad format allows the kids to learn about science and technology, natural phenomena, sports and athletes, school and Young Pioneer activities. On their pages are feature stories on new constructions and workers, legendary expeditions and the native places of great writers. The magazines also contain humor, riddles and charades. *Pioner* and *Kostyor* discuss with the readers international events and the peaceloving policy of the Soviet Union. In them the young readers will find articles on morality and proper behaviour, friendship of boys and girls and respect to elders. Both magazines print poems, stories and drawings done by the children themselves. Each of the magazines yearly receives from 50,000 to 100,000 letters from their readers, the most interesting of which are published. *Pioner* sponsors tournaments for budding chess champions for the prize of the White Rook club. *Kostyor* holds a Sprint school for young runners. Both magazines sponsor nationwide contests for kids and help school groups to organize their own work and leisure. Yet the greatest part of the space in the magazines is given over to children's literature. Many literary works first appear in *Pioner* and *Kostyor* before they are published by Detskaya Literatura children's publishers.

For children of the 1980s, the world is filled with a variety of colours. The secrets of outer space and matter, the riddles of biology, environmental protection, the latest discoveries in science and technology, the bright features of modern painting —all this amazes and interests children. Satisfying the wide range of interests of children and young adults are the specialized magazines

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and miscellanies *Yuni Tekhnik* (cir. 2 million plus), *Yuni Naturalist* (cir. 3 million plus), *Modelist-Konstruktor* (cir. 1 million plus), *Yuni Khudozhnik* (cir. 300,000), *Zateinik* (cir. 100,000) and for the blind and hard of seeing, *Sovetsky Shkolnik*.

These magazines are highly popular among those who have already resolutely decided on what field of knowledge to pursue. Each of the magazines has its own special features and its own form of presenting the material. *Yuni Tekhnik*, a magazine for young technicians, has its own "patent bureau" which examines inventions by children and young people. Through representation of the magazine the young inventors receive author's certificates. *Yuni Naturalist* has a section called the 'Why' Club which answers the readers' most complicated questions. This magazine actively involves its readers in environmental protection and tells about the work of "green" and "blue" patrols that protect forests and water bodies. *Yuni Khudozhnik* familiarizes boys and girls with masterpieces of world and Soviet art, dishes out useful advice to aspiring artists and sponsors art contests. The miscellany *Zateinik* presents to the readers new games, amusements, scripts for school shows, songs, and ideas for fancy-dress balls.

All the above-listed magazines appear once a month and are up to 140 pages in length. But in an age of avalanche-like growth of information a person wants to receive this information as quickly as possible. And the young citizen does receive it every day through the radio news programme Young Pioneers' Dawn and through 28 newspapers which are put out in the languages other than Russian in all the Soviet republics and in a number of autonomous republics on the republican level magazines similar to *Vesyolye Kartinki*, *Murzilka* and *Pioner* are printed.

Kostyor magazine

Pionerskaya Pravda, a biweekly national newspaper for kids with a circulation of more than nine million copies, will soon turn 60. It provides brief and readable information on important events and occurrences throughout the country and abroad and covers Young Pioneer and Komsomol activities. Like *Pioner*, *Pionerskaya Pravda* has a broad format. It contains material on science and technology, the cultural life of the country, news from the world of the cinema and sports, publishes short stories and long stories, and conducts various contests and sports competitions among its readers. Its contributors include prominent personalities in politics and public figures, scientists, cosmonauts, engineers, workers, writers and composers. *Pionerskaya Pravda* regularly sponsors an international drawing contest for children under the motto "I See the World". The newspaper, whose popularity is immense, receives several hundred thousand letters annually from its readers. Finally, it holds international displays of solidarity and friendship among children of various countries of the world.

The noble aims of Soviet children's periodicals help parents, teachers and all educational institutions to instil high morals in the coming generation, whose members will usher in the new century and be called upon to direct the destinies of their country, live in peace and make a worthy contribution to the development of world civilization. These lofty aims are served by every children's magazine, by every children's newspaper issued in the Soviet Union.

STANISLAV FURIN
Editor-in-Chief, *Pioner*.
VAAP-INFORM

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Books about Nature for Children

The planet Earth is our home. And natural environment requires thought and care on the part of Man. He must learn to use its riches without destroying them, to be provident so as not to bequeath a barren desert to his descendants.

Mankind's best minds, scholars and premiers, clergymen and teachers, are now engaged in the problem of protecting the environment. This must be a matter of concern to all who have children and grandchildren.

And what about those children and grandchildren, our descendants, who are going to be the masters of the Earth before many years pass? They are still too young and inexperienced to know good from evil, they are equally likely to grow up cruel or kind, they may take touching care of the small creatures, or may enjoy tormenting a cat, a dog or a pigeon. For it is not always that a wise adult may happen to be nearby and speak a timely word of admonition. How are they going to behave in their various encounters with nature? Who will teach them to be kind and far-sighted? What can save the future of our planet if not talented and wise books read in the formative age of childhood?

Kornei Chukovsky, one of the founders of Soviet literature for children and still a great favourite with young readers, once noted that the principal task of a children's writer is "at all costs to instil humaneness, this marvellous faculty of commiserating with another's misfortune, rejoicing at another's good fortune and feeling for another as for oneself. We must awaken, develop and strengthen in the receptive heart of the child this precious ability for compassion, the ability which makes a human being worthy of the name."

Many inspired words have been written in the Soviet Union, teaching children to be kind to all living things. Poetic pictures of the Russian countryside have been drawn for children by writers belonging to the older generation of Soviet literature: Mikhail Prishvin, Konstantin Paustovsky and Ivan Sokolov-Mikitov. Their works open the eyes of young readers to the beauty of nature, teach them to admire it and, consequently, to treasure it.

Then there emerged a group of naturalist writers. One of them, Vitaly Bianki, is the author of four books of short poetical and at the same time informative tales about animals, birds and insects. His amusing stories tell children what kind of nests birds build, what animals need tails for, which birds sing which songs, what is the purpose of the very differently arranged legs, beaks and much more. Bianki demonstrates the mutual dependence of everything in nature. For instance, in one story there is an old man who liked taking his tea with milk but refused to be friends with an owl. The owl resented this and stopped catching mice in the old man's clover field. The mice destroyed the hives of the bumble-bees, the bumble-bees stopped pollinating the clover, the cow no longer had enough fodder and the old man began going short of milk.

Yevgeny Charushin, who lived in Leningrad, was both an artist and a writer. Back in the thirties he published a book called *Stories About Animals* which was illustrated with his own charming drawings. About the same time Boris Zhitkov wrote his popular stories *About an Elephant*, *A Mongoose*, and *A Wolf*, Vera Chaplina published *Zoo Babies* and Olga Pewvskaya *Kids and Cubs*. All these books tell about animals' ways and habits, making them understandable to children.

Writer Sladkov was Vitaly Bianki's pupil and follower in children's literature. His book *The Land of Solar Flame* describes deserts and dry steppeland; *Dawn Over Clouds* introduces the young reader to the wild life of mountainous regions. Many of Sladkov's books are illustrated with the author's own photographs. His writings are very popular with young nature lovers. For the book *Underwater Newspaper* Sladkov was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation.

Much useful information about nature is contained in Nadezhda Nadezhdina's books *A Brother to Every Blade of Grass* and *In Orchard and Garden*. The botanist Pavlova writes fascinating sketches about flowers and

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insects. *We Haven't Seen It, but We Shall* is the title of one of her books intended to awaken in children an interest in nature and instil hope in future discoveries.

The biologist Ivan Akimushkin writes for teenagers, while Yuri Dmitriev has written more than fifty books about nature for young readers of all ages. Among them is the two-volume *Man and Animals, The Great Book of the Forest* and the series *Our Neighbours on This Planet*, the first book of which tells about insects and spiders, the second about amphibians and reptiles, the third about mammals and the fourth about birds.

In these books he examines the role of animals in Man's life from various points of view and discusses the need for ecological balance. Dmitriev tells his young readers about the efforts being made by people to save species that are in danger of extinction and about the newest methods of protecting our neighbours on this planet, including the use of satellites.

These and many other books penned by different writers seek to instil in their young readers a loving and protective attitude to all living things on earth.

Of course, books by themselves, without the active support of parents and school teachers, cannot cope with this great task. But the problem is all-important, and it concerns not only children, not one country, but our entire "home" which is called the planet Earth.

VLADIMIR MEERZON
VAAP-INFORM

The Shortest Route

Continued from page 24

selection is the relevancy of the topic and its originality. The schoolchildren must be among those immersed in one of the more complex fields of modern science. And, without doubt, consideration is given to the wishes of those to whom the series is addressed. Although the books are recurrent winners of Znanie Society nation-wide contests for the best works of scientific and technical literature and of prizes awarded by the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements for the best editing work, the greatest prize of them all is the schoolchildren's recognition.

Academician Igor Petryanov-Sokolov, the series' editor-in-chief, along with two other members of the editorial board, Academicians Ivan Knunyants and Alexei Narochnitsky, carefully sort through the mail sent by the readers to the editorial offices, read the comments on the books and study the interests of the readers. In the letters, they very often encounter requests for a reprint of a favourite book, specific suggestions for improving the editions, or thought-provoking ideas.

Some time to come, Pedagogika Publishers plan to arrange meetings between the scientists and schoolchildren. There is already a precedent for such type of contact—schoolchildren have met with the authors of the *Children's Encyclopaedia*. Direct communication can be of enormous benefit to both: for the scientists, such contact provides the opportunity for gauging the popularity of a potential book; for the schoolchildren, the chance to hear about it. Each new book of the series is impatiently awaited, and not only by Soviet boys and girls. The books of the series are eagerly purchased by foreign publishers. At the 1983 Moscow International Book Fair, publishing rights of the series were bought by publishing firms from Japan, Bulgaria, Mexico and other countries.

As the interest in this series is large, the books entering it must be entertaining and understandable to children of the entire world.

Soon to be released as part of the series is a book by Vitaly Kostomarov, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, entitled *A Life of a Language*, and *The Great Law* by Academicians Igor Petryanov-Sokolov and Dmitry Trifonov. New discoveries by leading Soviet scientists are awaiting their turn. One can only envy the schoolchildren– to them, the road to the achievements of science has become open and accessible.

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The Endless & Difficult Road

Children's Encyclopaedias in the USSR

12-Volume edition of Children's Encyclopaedia

All kinds of different-shaped books are laid out on the table. Some are thick and some are thin, there are black and white ones and there are colourful ones, and some of them are old, others new. There are children's encyclopaedias in two, three, ten and twelve volumes, and fat dictionaries and thin, bright pocket dictionaries. All this is what the library of the Children's Book House in Moscow has to offer.

The whole story of the Children's Encyclopaedia is contained in this impressive collection of books.

The thirst for knowledge in post-revolutionary Russia was particularly great. This was conditioned by the fact that large-scale construction began in the country. To be literate meant to be a valued worker and a needed specialist, and, of course, everyone tried to give their children an education. This was dictated by the very life and new opportunities opening up before people. Efforts were made as early as the 1920s to publish a new children's encyclopaedia, but in the prevailing conditions and with the small number of people who wrote for children then, nothing much came of them. Things went no further than the compilation of a glossary and some booklets.

In the 1930s, Detizdat (Children's Publishers) tried to publish a Children's Encyclopaedia. The plans for the volumes were ready, and the first hundred articles had been prepared. The first, trial volume came out in 1937, but, at that, everything came to a halt. In 1939, Detizdat gave young readers an encyclopaedia for three to six-year-olds which was thought up and compiled by the remarkable children's writer Boris Zhitkov. This large book written in the person of an inquisitive and lively little boy was called *What I Saw*. Zhitkov himself explained that he decided to write in the person of a pre-school child in order not to use words and expressions which were difficult to understand. Like a tuning fork, the age of the hero-cum-story teller allowed the writer to check every phrase out loud.

Boris Zhitkov's experiment was taken up, and other writers also began to create various encyclopaedic books for children. The names of Vitaly Bianki, who wrote *The Woodland Newspaper*, and Mikhail Ilyin, who wrote *Tales of What Is Around You*, as well as those of a number of other Soviet children's writers are inseparable from the history of the popular-science and instruction literature of an encyclopaedic nature. All the same, the current Soviet Children's Encyclopaedia was first released by the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences Press only between 1959 and 1963, and consisted of ten bulky volumes bound in yellow calico.

Of course, the main thing about the Encyclopaedia is that it gives an

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idea of the complexity and grandeur of the world created by man. It follows a thematic principle instead of a dictionary-like one, and every volume contains a compact picture of the unity of mankind in the striving for freedom and knowledge without restricting itself to the European civilizations, which is a traditional feature of Western publications.

Each volume of the Encyclopaedia is devoted to one theme, such as The Earth, Plants and Animals, Man, The History of Human Society, Literature and Art, and so on. In addition to the articles on this or that subject, every volume has a list of the most important pieces of information, a bibliography, and name and subject indexes.

This Children's Encyclopaedia is not descriptive, but continually urges the reader to try things for himself, such as making a herbarium, gathering a collection of minerals, or making a primitive telescope.

At the end of 1969, Prosveshchenie (Education) Publishers in Moscow put out a second edition of the Encyclopaedia, which this time consisted of twelve volumes. Having done so, it immediately passed the baton to the newly-founded Pedagogika (Pedagogics) Publishers.

The third, also a twelve-volume edition of the Children's Encyclopaedi, ahad a print of 520,000 and preserved the thematic principle in its structure. The editor-in-chief of all three editions of the Encyclopaedia was A. Markushevich, Vice President of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. The third edition contained considerably more information than the first two, and more topics, the answers were more thorough, the number of the illustrations was greater and their quality better. In the second edition illustrative material formed 12.7 per cent of the content, whereas in the third edition this had grown to 28 per cent. Around 700 colour photographs, reproductions, drawings, geographic and historical maps, and rare photographic documents help the reader to understand more deeply and acquire a more practical idea of the content of each volume.

Many people take part in the preparation of the Encyclopaedia and include scientists and cultural workers—there are more than 900 contributors in all, including 57 members and corresponding members of the USSR Academy of Sciences. There are 30 members of branch academies such as the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Academy of Social Sciences and the Academy of Fine Arts, 238 Doctors of Sciences and Professors, and important journalists, artists, educators and writers.

The principle of the publication remains to attract direct participants and eye-witnesses to important events, so that young readers obtain information 'first hand', and not in accounts.

The twelve-volume Children's Encyclopaedia is aimed at readers of middle to upper school age.

Encyclopaedias for younger schoolchildren are another matter, for these children are not able to read a thick volume from cover to cover and here the encyclopaedic dictionary is called on to give inquisitive children a selective answer to any question on the meaning of individual words or concepts.

Pedagogika Publishers have twice (in 1968 and from 1975 to 1978) released an encyclopaedia called *What Is This*? *Who Is This*? for 9 to 11-year-old children. In 1968 it came out in two volumes, the second edition was in three volumes.

The subject matter of the three-volume edition gives the beginners the opportunity to obtain answers to questions they may have concerning all areas of knowledge, be it in the field of technology, natural sciences or the humanities. There are around 1,000 explanations set out in alphabetical order, which helps the reader to find the anwer to his question quickly and trains him to use reference literature. Every word is turned into a narrative, journalistic article or businesslike description.

There are also editions for teenagers, in which words are explained out of context. There are thematic encyclopaedic dictionaries for young artists, farmers, chemists, astronomers, geographers, students in local lore, technicians and sportsmen.

The Detskaya Literatura (Children's Literature) Publishers put out a whole series of beautiful encyclopaedic dictionaries, each written by one author and aimed at eight to ten-year-old readers. They have been published for the last twenty years and number around twenty-five titles. Each such dictionary contains a few words which are needed to cover and reveal some capacious concept. Every word constitutes the title of an account or an article. Many dictionaries are subtitled : "An Encyclopaedic Dictionary. From A to Z With All The Stops, the 'stops' all forming a single whole. The word-terms open up before the child a set of phenomena, which together form an overall leading concept. For example, 'wood', 'desert', 'kitchen garden', 'cosmos', 'transport', and 'man'. As a rule, each of these thin, colourful booklets starts with an alphabetical index which also serves as a list of contents. Many of the dictionaries finish with game material such as quizzes, entertaining questions and tasks.

Yet, even so, this type of encyclopaedic dictionary, like various other publications for children, has not yet become fixed.

Mankind's scientific knowledge is increasing and school curricula are changing. With this, the tasks of encyclopaedias also alter.

The quest goes on.

VLADIMIR MEYERZON
VAAP-INFORM

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Tadjik Children's Literature

"An overseas visitor to Tadjikistan once remarked: 'Your children carry themselves as though each child wears a royal crown.' The children of our republic, as do all Soviet children, wear not a royal crown, but a crown of happiness, care and love. For them we open a multitude of fine kindergartens and creches, summer camps and schools, Pioneer Palaces, libraries and cinemas. For them we publish many kind, wise and jolly books in beautiful bindings."

We are talking with the vice-chairman of the committee for literature for children and young people, of the Tadjikistan Writers' Union, holder of the H.C. Andersen Diploma, Honoured Cultural Worker of Tadjikistan, children's poet Ubaid Radjab.

U.R. In recent years, Central Asian, and in particular Tadjik children's literature, has taken a great stride forward. Much poetry and prose for children has been published in our periodicals; every year the republic's publishers "Irfon" and "Maorif" release many new books, and there is a host of poets and writers for children working in our republic, whose books are favourites with children of all ages. Particularly worthy of mention are Gulchekhry Suleimanova, Nugmon Razik, Amindjon Shukukhi, Bolty Ortikov, Mavdjuda Khakimova, Nariman Bako-zadeh, Ali Bobodjon, Bobo Khodji, to name a few. Their books have been published not only in our republic, but also in Moscow, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Latvia, the Ukraine, Turkmenia and Moldavia. This bears witness to the great popularity of Tadjik children's literature.

Stories of working and workers provide one of the main themes in Tadjik children's poetry. The poet paints a picture of Man the creator of beauty and transformer of the world.

Cor. In your long poem "The Earth", you represent it as a spiritual, thinking being . . .

U.R. True. You see, the poet must treat every object or event which he portrays as a living entity; he must imbue it with life, dress it in individual characteristics. Such poetry is especially popular with young readers. It is noteworthy that Tadjik prose and poetry for children has retained the didactic tradition, which is a basic feature of Tadjik classical literature, with its thousand-year-old history.

Cor. Please tell us of current genres and themes in Tadjik children's prose.

U.R. At present, long and short stories analysing the inter-relationships of children and adults, and the behaviour of children in various situations. As, for example, in the stories of Bolty Ortikov.

Abdumalik Bakhori's "The Cream at the Edge of the Cup", and Bakhrom Firuz's "You're Not Alone" stand out among stories devoted to the spiritual development of the rising generation.

The theme of the heroism, patriotism and selflessness of children and adolescents is one of the basic themes of Soviet children's literature, and is the pivot of Mirsaid Mirshakar's story, "Lenin's Smile". Mirsaid Mirshakar is a national poet of Tadjikistan and a laureate of the USSR State Prize, Ibod Fayzulayev's "Story about the Green Forest" is devoted to the Great Patriotic War of the USSR against Nazi Germany.

That the artistic mastery of our writers is continually improving is shown by the fact that Tadjik books are being translated into many languages both within and beyond the USSR.

Cor. What about the child-readers? What are their interests and tastes nowadays?

U.R. That reminds me of the words of the great Russian writer, Maxim Gorky, He said that to write for children is the same as to write for adults, only better. The writer for children is responsible for the formation of the young soul.

We are striving to develop a feeling of fairness and friendship in younger children. The young reader nowadays expects to read about actual conflicts, real heroic deeds and strong characters. It is essential not only to be able to talk to your readers, but also to know what to say to them. Children of 9—14 age group are the chief target of children's literature, but we are not forgetting pre-schoolers. We need stories which give material for games. Why? Because for children of this age game is life itself. Whereas teenagers expect from us subtle, inventive and serious books. And there is one more very real demand on writers; children's literature fulfils its educational role only when it conveys the aesthetic.

Cor. One last question. Is it true that a writer for

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Daghestan, Komi, Chuvashia

". . Childhood passes, but it
bequeaths to us,
A legacy of childhood songs,
Its memory remains for ever."

With these lines Rasul Gamzatov, the outstanding contemporary Soviet poet, expresses a feeling known to every grown-up. Today his poetry is well known both in the Soviet Union and abroad. And it is hard to believe that a few decades ago some of the peoples inhabiting Daghestan (now an Autonomous Republic within the Russian Federation) had no written language of their own. Now books, magazines and newspapers are published and there are radio broadcasts in ten national languages of the Republic. Today Daghestan has its own writers and poets, and plays by Avar, Kumyk, Darghin, Lak and Daghestan playwrights are on at five state theatres.

Daghestan means "the country of mountains". About thirty nationalities live in the Republic with its comparatively small territory of 50.3 thousand square kilometres. Mstislav Stingl, the Czechoslovak ethnographer and traveller, who visited more than 100 countries, wrote: "Wherever more than one nationality lives in the same state, intranational friction arises. But in Daghestan about thirty nationalities live in peace and friendship."

The universal expansion of the Russian language in the Republic was accompanied by the flourishing of local languages. The poems of the Avar poet Rasul Gamzatov, who holds the honorary title of People's Poet of Daghestan, of Rashid Rashidov, a Darghin and winner of the international Hans Christian Andersen Prize, and of Nuratdin Yusupov, a Lak and winner of the State Prize of the Russian Federation are national in both form and content, which imparts to them the unique colouring of national traditions. Grandpa and Grandma, the favourite, wise confidants of kids, are often to be found in their verses. They, as Rasul Gamzatov wrote, "consider their own honour to be higher than all the summits of the East". The writers of Daghestan well remember the words of the Soviet Russian children's author, Boris Zhitkov, that a child is a synopsis of the adult man. Thus typical of the children's literature of this multinational republic is its ability to "converse" with children, a characteristic that has distinguished good literature throughout the ages. The heroes of books by Rashid Rashidov, whose work has won international recognition, teach children kindness, and faith in good things:

"We will easily agree about the price
What, no money?
You give me a smile,
That's better than anything."

KOMI

The written literary language of Komi was founded by the missionary Stefan Permsky. The first old texts date back to the 14-16th centuries. Russian scholars began to record Komi folklore as early as the 19th century. And it was these oral works—fairy tales, legends, songs—that were to become one of the sources of Komi literature, whose foundations were laid in the last century by Ivan Kuratov.

A hundred years ago they wrote about the Komi people as follows: "This tribe is swiftly moving towards degeneration, and it can be said with confidence that it has not long to tread this wide world, that it is already living its last moments." This prophesy has never been so far from the truth as today.

The economy of the Komi Autonomous Republic, which is part of the Russian Federation, is developing at a rapid pace. Apart from the wood industry, machine-building plants and local industry enterprises were constructed. Part of the production is exported.

Cultural development began after the Civil War (1918-1922). Schools were opened, the first native-language newspapers published, and the national theatre founded. It was in the 20s that Komi literature for children began to develop. It was at this very time that ABCs and textbooks were compiled, and verses and stories written for them. With their help children learnt to read and write. Authors wrote of the transformations taking place, of the struggle between the new and the old. In the 20s and 30s, it was poetry that predominated. Today prose and drama occupy a worthy place alongside poetry.

Recently an anthology of short stories was published under the title *Here on the Inva.* It contains works by the young and older generations of writers, including Ivan Minin, Valerian Batalov, Vasily Isayev, Semyon Fedoseev

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Timofei Fadeev, Valentin Kuchevoi. They write sincerely, with love and kindness, of the people of their native land. And Komi children are brought up on these feelings which are always highly valued by the people.

CHUVASHIA

In the history of Chuvash culture there exists a personality who warrants no other name than that of enlightener. We have in mind Ivan Yakovlev. In the middle of the last century he opened schools, introduced innovations into the educational system for teaching the children of the non-Russian peoples of Russia in their native language, created a new Chuvash written language and got a publishing house going. Ivan Yakovlev was a mathematician and philologist; it is with him that the school of Chuvash 19th century writers begins. And he wrote literature for children. The famous Soviet author, Marietta Shaginyan, said of him, 'Ivan Yakovlev was a true son of his people, one of those whom history carries aloft, concentrating in him as a representative of his people, the nervous energy, intellect and character of many hundreds of his fellow men."

In our day Ivan Yakovlev's motherland is called the Chuvash Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and forms part of the Russian Federation. Chuvashia today is a republic with a highly developed industry and agriculture. In Cheboksary, the capital of Chuvashia, the doors of the university, agricultural and teachers' training colleges are opened wide to young people.

The paper *The Young Pioneer's Call* in the Chuvash language is published specially for children. On its pages, as on the pages of books and journals put out by the Chuvash publishers, children can meet with their favourite national writers and poets: Alexei Talvir, Mikhail Yukhma, Eva Lisina. Books by these three authors—*Anyar*, *The Children of Senyal* and *The Children of Purneske and of His Friends* were recently published in Moscow in the Russian language. To the young dreamer Marina (*The Children of Senyal*) her home village is a fairyland; while the rivers, lakes and leafy groves were full of magic for the young town children (*Anyar*); finally, a real fairy-tale are the extraordinary adventures of Purneske. The Chuvash land is depicted in it as fabulous, and its heroes speak a fabulous language.

The traditions of the national literature for children, founded by Ivan Yakovlev, with its roots going back to folklore, are continued by the contemporary children's writers of Chuvashia. The essence of these traditions amounts to teaching a young child to love beauty, and to stimulate in him interest in and love for his homeland.

Tadjik Children's Literature

Continued from page 32

children must be a man, made wise by his long experience of life?

U.R. The proverb says, "Children are more like their times than like their parents." We have found that young people can also write fine children's books. For example here in our republic we have Muhammad Goib, Dzhura Khashimi, Latofat Kondjayev and others.

Although the range of children's interests changes, the following do not change: their eternal inquisitiveness, their interest in the world around them, their will to get to know the world and to find their place in it. Today they are children; tomorrow they will take our place.

Interviewed by MARINA NEKRASOVA, member of the Soviet Writers' Union.

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Kazakhstan: A Nation of Poets-singers

My nation is a nation of poets-singers. Just as there is no man without a name of his own, there is no Kazakh without his own song. Every child grows among songs, legends, folktales and books.

Kazakh written literature for children has its roots deep in our rich, traditional oral folklore.

The founder of Kazakh children's literature was our great teacher and enlightener, poet and translator Ibrai Altynsarin. He produced brilliant classics of poetry and prose for children. In his *Kirghiz Reader* (1879) he included some of his own verses and fables in prose.

Kazakh Soviet children's literature is the offspring of the Great October Revolution. It was not fully formed in one year, but gathered strength gradually, step by step. Before the October Revolution, its writers and poets were few and far between, and in the whole of Kazakhstan there was not a single publication for children, not even a magazine or a paper. In the beginning of the twenties two journals appeared simultaneously—*Leninshil Zhas* and *Pioner*. They carried material written especially for children and young people.

By the time of the outbreak of the Second World War, collections of short stories, several novels, tales in verse, and adaptations from folk legends, had been published. During the pre- and post-war periods, professional writers appeared, writing exclusively for children, mainly for the 9—14 age group.

The fifties and early sixties saw the appearance of a large number of talented writers for children, such as B. Sokpakbayev, M. Alimbayev, M. Jamanbalinov, A. Duisenbiev, K. Murzaliev, N. Gabdullin, K. Idrisov, M. Gumerov and others. This was a time of burgeoning growth and development in all genres of Kazakh literature for children of all ages. There was a great enrichment and broadening of subject matter. The main theme during those years was the constructive labour of the Soviet people, the defence of world peace, and a happy and hopeful future for our children and for all the children of the world.

Our talented writers who have created works of art worthy of contemporary children were beginning to win acclaim throughout the Soviet Union precisely at that time. Their better works were being translated into Russian, and thence, or in some cases directly from the original, into the languages of our fraternal Soviet peoples and into foreign languages.

National periodicals play a major role in children's literature's development. The children's journal *Baldyrgan* (The Seedling), founded in 1958, has become not only a popular magazine, and a sincere friend giving wise advice to Kazakh children, but has been generally accepted as the centre for the development of Kazakh literature addressed to 7—10 year-olds.

Contemporary Kazakh literature for children has matured to such an extent that it now speaks to children through poetry, prose and drama of all the problems of society and civic life.

Our major poet, Utebai Turmanjanov, creates his ringing verses, full of the joy of discovery, such as "The Bees and the Ants".

Apparently inadvertently he guides the child to an understanding of the deep closeness of work and friendship, to the understanding that neither can exist independently, without the other, any more than can the words of a line of poetry.

Kazakh literature is now on the way to new successes; all the conditions are favourable for its further flowering.

In 1975, Zhalyn Publishers was established to issue books for children and young people. Prior to this, in 1969, the literary miscellany *Zhalyn* (The Flame) and in 1960 the journal *Bilim Zhane Enbek* (Knowledge and Labour) were started. From 1965 onwards there was the annual calendar *All Year Round*. It is certain that all this has played a vital role in the development of Kazakh literature for children, and in the maturing of its young authors.

Every year, Zhalyn Publishers releases some 250 titles in the Kazakh and Russian languages. Kazakh children read the finest gems from the treasure house of Soviet and world literature, in their own native language. And those creations of Kazakh writers that stand the test of time are translated into many languages.

MUZAFAR ALIMBAYEV

poet, honoured cultural worker of Kazakhstan, member of the committee on literature for children and young people of the Soviet Writers' Union, member of the board of the Writers' Union of Kazakhstan.

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Elar Kuus and His Children's Stories

One of my son's most favourite books is *Our Otter* by Estonian writer Elar Kuus. This amusing story of a tamed river, Otter, was first published in 1959. Since then several generations of Soviet children have learned from its heroes that every living being on earth should be treated with care and understanding.

In all of Kuus's stories, one detects a great knowledge of and sensitivity to nature. Among his better known works are a collection of stories entitled *Blizzard*, the plays, *Ati, the Wiz* and *Mother's Kiss*, which have been produced as puppet shows, and the books *The Sun's Family*, *Youthful Adventures*, *When Grandad Was a Boy*, *The Cricket's Key*, and *The Marksman*.

In his books, more often than not written with the beginner reader in mind, Kuus avoids clouding the stories with too much information at once, yet he does introduce enough interesting details to teach the young reader about the lives of animals, birds and plants, about such natural phenomena as the changing of seasons, the solar system, the magical transformations of water and much else. All this informtion is relayed in the form of legends, tales, and parables, which are saturated with the desire to do good, with love and respect for children.

Elar Kuus is a brilliant educator. He believes that every children's book should contain a moral, and that this moral should be skillfully concealed. Applying this principle, Kuus does not waste words in order to appear ultra-modern; his style can be characterized as light narration always speckled with humour, even if he talks of serious things. A wise teacher emerges from the stories included in the collection, *Youthful Adventures*. These stories are set in the Soviet Far East, the Ukraine and other parts of the Soviet Union and, what is more, each of them combines a lesson in history, geography and natural history of that particular region.

Kuus' favourite genre is the fairy-tale, in which he abundantly uses the most well-known story-telling methods. Apart from the little gems of tales, legends and parables contained in *The Sun's Family* and *The Cricket's Key*, Kuus has also contributed to the treasure chest of Estonian children's literature the tale *Mother's Kiss*, in which a mother's kiss turns out to be the best weapon in the struggle of three young rabbits against a mean wolf.

A rich imagination is what makes a fairy-tale great. But a person not capable of fantasizing could not have depicted history as skilfully as it is done in the book. *The Marksman*, which whisks the reader away to the distant past. *The Marksman* is a story about primitive society presented in a form accessible to children. Although perhaps open to criticism from pedants, it wonderfully carries out its task of awakening in children an interest in the times of lore, conducting them into a realm which might otherwise seem alien, boring and, in sum, simply irrelevant to the present.

Elar Kuus' interests go beyond nature, geography and history. To this list must be added art, literature, psychology, the cinema and travel. At eighty years of age the writer still maintains a lively interest in all aspects of life, in science news and in art, and in everything going on in the world.

HELJO ERNESAKS
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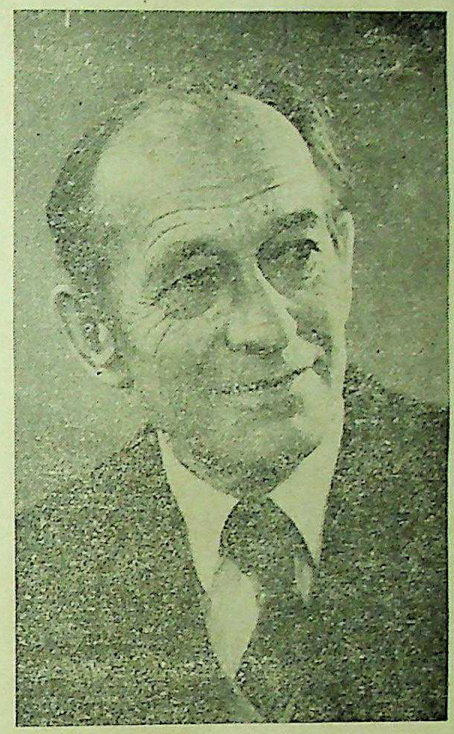
Lithuania's Most Popular Poet

In Lithuania there is not a single school or kindergarten where the children do not know Anselmas Matutis's verses and poems by heart. He himself has repeatedly been convinced of this. No sooner does he begin to recite his poems than the children in the audience immediately join in, loudly repeating the words.

The poet taught school for a quarter of a century. This gave him a deep insight into child psychology, an understanding of the world of children's interests. His first verses came out in 1937, when he was only fourteen. The first collection of his poetry was published at the end of the 1940's. Today Anselmas Matutis has over thirty books to his credit. His more than forty years of creative writing have now been crowned with *The Woodpecker's Smithy*, a collection of works in diverse genres : poems, fables, songs and stories. Intended for readers of very different age-groups, the book opens with verses for children of pre-school age and closes with fables so profound that they are enjoyed by grownups, too.

Of late the poet has been writing a lot for very young children. *The Giant's Spoon* is a book for pre-schoolers and it is very popular in Lithuania. It skilfully reveals how the child's boundless fantasy combines with his awareness of the material nature of the world.



Anselmas Matutis

Matutis knows and loves nature and the Lithuanian countryside. It is not fortuitous that the theme of a child's links with nature is traceable in all his works. Most modern children are city-dwellers and know very little about woodland life. Anselmas Matutis not only shows children the beauty of the forest, he also acquaints them in a most vivid manner with the flora and fauna of Lithuania.

Today the poet is particularly worried over the problem of protecting the natural environment. He takes the fairy-tale as his ally in defence of Nature. In his book *Forest Manikins*, the gnomes tell the children how much harm is done to the forest. The forehead of the gnome, Silinukas, is very wrinkled by "worries". The Red Worry is fire, the Blue Worry is the poison that kills little fishes in the rivers, and the Black Worry is the smoke from industrial enterprises that is smothering the trees.

Hollowkin is a story in verse about a forest which is beset by a great trouble : a merciless woodcutter, an impudent poacher, is ravaging the forest. Hollowkin, a tiny boy who has been asleep for a hundred years, wakes up and begins to fight the enemies of the forest. With the aid of the birds and animals he overcomes all enemies. By posing such "adult" problems in his poems for children the poet prepares his readers for the future; he cultivates in them a civic awareness of their responsibility for the future of Nature. Who knows, perhaps when the child has become an adult he will not be indifferent to nature, thanks to the complaint of the gnome and the selfless bravery of Hallowkin. Impressions gained in childhood very often leave their marks throughout life.

GRAZINA SKABEIKITE
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Dear Zenta Ergle

The Latvian writer, Zenta Ergle, receives thousands of letters from children from all over the Soviet Union. Here is one of them: "Dear Zenta Ergle, our class discussed your book *The Kids of Our Neighbourhood*. It is so interesting that when you read it you imagine that you are also taking part in the action...."

The Kids of Our Neighbourhood was Zenta Ergle's first book. Since its release in 1956 the writer has produced thirty more books, among which are stories, travel notes, fairy-tales and plays.

Zenta Ergle suffered an unkind fate. A prolonged illness confined her to a hospital bed from which she endured a long separation from friends and family, including her son and daughter. It was during her period of confinement that the thought occurred to her to undertake the writing of some kind of story that would soothe her children, deflect their attention from their mother's illness, get them to play again, engross them, provide a park for their creativity. Ergle began a story, adding new chapters every day. That is how *The Kids of Our Neighbourhood* was born. Its heroes are young residents of Riga who live in the same block of flats. Aided by adults, the kids succeed in fixing up their courtyard and organize their own club, but not without a hail of events, conflicts and humorous situations.

The Kids of Our Neighbourhood was later translated into many languages, and in 1960 it was made into a play which was staged at the Moscow Children's Theatre. In the meanwhile, young readers were impatiently awaiting a sequel. Children from

Zenta Ergle

Sverdlovsk wrote: "Dear Zenta Ergle, could you please write a book about kids playing Indians....". Ergle heeded the children's request, coming out with *Now That Was a Summer*! In it the heroes from the author's previous book spend their summer vacation in a seaside town. At the camp Indian games are organized and a conflict with the leader of the local gang of boys arises, only to be solved when the two warring groups together help to put out a forest fire, cementing friendship between them.

The author often receives letters impatiently entreating her to pick up her pen again: "....I hope your new book comes out real soon. I am sure it will be very, very interesting." And Zenta Ergle is not in a position to deny readers' hopes and expectations. Soon to appear was her third work, *Do You Think I'm a Failure?*, about a young boy named Peteris who encounters unpleasantries in everything he does.

"Those boys who you write about in your books are lucky", a girl wrote to the author. "Can it be that you'll never write anything about us, girls?" Perhaps it was this letter, or possibly many others as well, that prompted the author to invent a plot in which the main hero was a girl. Such a story is *It Began in a Flower House*. The adventures of the young heroes begin in Latvia, and end up in Georgia. This thrilling story was followed by another, *Uno and the Three Musketeers*, about three friends, Porthos, Aramis and Athos, who after reading loads of adventure stories decide to imitate the gallant musketeers. The boys' merry-making is interrupted by the appearance of an unfamiliar boy who surpasses the musketeers in their erudition. The four help the police to apprehend a group of wharf-side blackmarketeers. The biggest surprise, however, is still to come. Uno, their helpmate, turns out to be a girl.

Zenta Ergle's plots are centered on action, romantic events and entertaining adventures that involve the heroes in dramatic confrontations, which are then unwound, putting a happy ending to the story. Her talent for revealing the psychology of children and for creating excitingly tense action has repeatedly amazed young readers.

Zenta Ergle's books are entertaining. But it is also in line to mention their educational role. For example, in the story *Between Us, Girls* the readers follow the unwinding of interesting events and encounter courageous heroes. They are also introduced to problems, such as: Is it permissible for a girl to humiliate herself in front of a boy whom she likes? Ought a boy to be dishonest with a girl if they have become friends? And in general, what does honour mean? Honest conduct? What is true friendship? Love?

YAZEP OSMANIS

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NEW BOOKS FROM THE USSR

At the Cross-roads of Four Cultures

Yuri Roerich's Unique Dictionary

It is practically impossible to imagine the history of cultural relations between Russia and India in the 20th century without taking account of the vast artistic and scholarly endeavour of the Roerich family, the father Nikolai (1874—1947), an outstanding artist, talented poet and original thinker, and his two sons, the orientalist Yuri (1902—1960) and the painter Svyatoslav (b. 1904). The creative achievements of this remarkable family attract great interest in the Soviet Union, an interest which is further stimulated by new publications on their work. In particular, last year the almanac *Sovremennaya Dramaturgiya* (*Modern Drama*), Iskusstvo Publishers, carried a play by Nikolai Roerich "Mercy", which was written in 1917 with a foreword by Svyatoslav Roerich. The same year also saw the publication of Volume I of the *Tibetan-Russian-English Dictionary with Sanscrit Parallels*, which was compiled by Yuri Roerich.

This unique work is being prepared for the press by the leading oriental studies publishing house—the Central Oriental Section of Nauka Publishers, USSR Academy of Sciences. The dictionary consists of 6 volumes, to be published over a period of two and a half years in an edition of 6,200 copies.

Yuri Roerich, a major expert in the history and culture of South and Central Asia, studied Indo-Tibetan contacts in ancient times and in the Middle Ages. Specialists well know his monograph *The Legend of Rama in Tibet*. From 1949 to 1957 he headed the Indo-Tibetan seminar in Kalimpong. After his return to the country of his birth, Yuri Roerich was appointed Head of the Culture and Philosophy department at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He engaged in intensive research work, lectured at Moscow University and also resumed work on the dictionary he had started back in the 20s. His untimely death interrupted his work on the dictionary and it looked as though it would never be seen in print, since the main body of the lexical material collected by the scholar was based on data pertaining to the 20s and 30s, and he had barely started work on the modification and the selection of Russian equivalents (the initial version of the dictionary was Tibeto-English).

But Yuri Roerich's colleagues and pupils were determined to complete the work of their friend and teacher. The work of incorporating new lexical material, citing additional meanings of words already included, and tracing the etymology of idioms and phrases was undertaken by Yuri Parfionovich, Vilena Dylykova, Vasily Bogoslovsky, Boris Semichev, Konstantin Cheremisov, and others. As the result of their efforts Yuri Roerich's dictionary was enlarged from 65 to 80 thousand words and expressions, reflecting thereby the development of the Tibetan written language from the 7th to the mid-20th centuries, and was brought into full accord with the accepted modern standards, while the fact that it is polylingual, Sanscrit including, makes this unique publication also extremely useful for anyone who knows or is learning any one of the languages concerned.

Yuri Roerich's dictionary is clearly of tremendous value. It reveals the powerful cultural influence India has exercised on bordering countries and also how Tibetan literature has creatively adopted the classical Indian philology and philosophy. Its publication opens up new and broad opportunities for comparative studies, and is sure to stimulate the work of orientalists in this direction. It is also a major contribution to our knowledge of the cultural history of this region of the world.

Yuri Roerich's scholarly feat, which has found its consummation more than twenty years after his death, is worthy of the greatest respect. At the same time, we must give their due to all those who have undertaken to continue and complete his work, thus providing yet another manifestation of the continuity of the best traditions in Soviet oriental studies, inspired by the principles underlying scholarly ethics and loyalty to the memory of a teacher.

LEV ROZHANSKY
VAAP-INFORM

Irina Sheptunova

ESSAYS ON THE MODERN HISTORY OF AESTHETIC THOUGHT IN INDIA, Moscow, Nauka, 1984, 188 pp.

Irina Sheptunova is a leading Soviet historian of Indian art. Her monograph, *Bengali Renaissance Painting*, written in 1978, provides a comprehensive examination of the historical and conceptual basis of the most

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triking and unique phenomenon in modern Indian art. Specialists have acclaimed the album of reproductions of Amrita Sher-Gill's paintings which Sheptunova compiled. The accompanying essay on Sher-Gill's work presents to Soviet readers this brilliant Indian artist who sought to accomplish a kind of synthesis of traditional and modern pictorial devices and motifs.

Here we introduce a new major study by the Soviet indologist which organically incorporates her previous efforts.

The author rightly believes that to better understand the subject the reader must be aware of the underlying conceptual and artistic principles of traditional Indian art. This is dealt with in the first chapter of the book. Drawing upon Vedic literature, writings of the Sanskrit classics, Medieval treatises on the poetry and pictorial art, the author traces the formation of aesthetic concepts reflecting the close interrelationship between religious and philosophical thought and art that has led to the unique consistency of India's cultural traditions.

"The modern Indian culture," writes Sheptunova at the beginning of the second chapter, "was taking shape in the struggle against cultural expansion, a subtle and venturous instrument of colonial policy." The most distinctive feature of Indian culture of that period was "its remarkable mature social potential and the subordination of all creative endeavours to one major objective, the struggle for national independence." Hence the importance of studying new trends in Indian art in the context of the ideological movements that stimulated these trends. It is therefore only natural that the author dwells at length upon the activities of Rammohun Roy and the Brahmo Samaj society, the ideas of the neo-Vedic philosophers Swami Vivekananda and Aurobindo Ghosh, and especially on the manifold legacy of Rabindranath Tagore whom she calls "the symbol of Indian national culture".

Analysis of Rabindranath Tagore's theoretical views on art makes up the bulk of this chapter, and with good reason, for the Bengali Renaissance was a kind of bridge between the Middle Ages and Modern Times, of which Rabindranath Tagore was one of the chief architects. Irina Sheptunova points out the sources of Tagore's ideas, including those to be found in ancient India, focussing on Tagore's ideas which were relevant for his time, since they opposed the commercialism of the bourgeois West and tended to universality, denying nationalistic extremes yet cherishing national identity. This study is undoubtedly one of the most definitive among recent Soviet publications devoted to Tagore.

The Aesthetics of the 1930s and 1940s, the title of the third chapter, covers the theoretical works of Ananda Coomaraswamy and Mulk Raj Anand, and the aesthetic conceptions of Rabindranath Tagore, stressing the part Ananda Coomaraswamy's ideas played in forming the stereotype views of the alleged "inherent" dissimilarities between Western and Eastern art. Discussing the work of Mulk Raj Anand, a writer most read in the Soviet Union, the author underscores his affinity with Vedic philosophy, on the one hand, and his effective historicism and realism, on the other. Rabindranath Tagore's work attracts the scholar because he opposed the contraposition of the artistic cultures of West and East and did not believe in the spiritual superiority of any nation.

The fourth and concluding chapter looks at art and aesthetic thought in independent India. It gives the reader an idea of the diverse artistic trends in contemporary India—from purely traditionalists to modernists, who associate themselves with various Western schools. Special attention is given to the so-called tantrism in Indian painting and sculpture. At the same time the author identifies the increasing interest of artists and critics in the progressive concepts, a striving to overcome what she calls "the confusion before the invasion of Western avant-gardism".

Irina Sheptunova's research can be recommended not only to art historians and critics. It represents a useful source of information on the history of Indian philosophy and literature for all those concerned with the culture of this great country.

LEV ROZHANSKY
VAAP-INFORM

Alexei Sukhochev

KRISHAN CHANDAR, Nauka, Moscow, 230 pp.

The 20th-century Indian literature abounds in names of writers whose works spotlight some of the turning points in the country's history and have left a deep imprint on the nation's conscience. One of these names is Krishan Chandar (1913—1977), who wrote in Urdu, a language of rich literary traditions. Krishan Chandar wrote more than 80 books, including novels, novellas, collections of short stories and one-act plays. The writer has left a legacy that is diverse not in terms of genres only : Krishan Chandar has many faces and intonations not infrequently contradicting one another. He is famous as a keen lyric poet, as an inspired romantic rebel and an accusing satirist. Whatever method or style the writer used, from a profoundly realistic narration to international moral story, his thrust is focused on two eternal themes—man's desire to blend with nature and his conflict with the injustices of the society he lives in.

Krishan Chandar's books are admired and widely read in the USSR. His books have been translated into Russian for more than 30 years now. In all, 13 of his

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books, including novels, collections of short stories and memoirs, have come out in this country.

Recently, a book about the writer himself, the first monograph in world literature devoted to Krishan Chandar, has been published. Its author, Alexei Sukhochev, a leading Soviet authority on India and the Orient, has written many books on Indian literature. He has done much to stimulate interest in the writer among the Soviet reading public. Several of the books by the great Indian writer that have been published here in Russian were translated by Sukhochev. Sukhochev was personally acquainted with Krishan Chandar and knew first-hand the social and literary environment that had moulded the Indian writer. This circumstance has enabled the Soviet scholar to recreate the writer's integral, colourful and authentic individuality within the historical framework in which Krishan Chandar matured as a writer.

Combining elements of a scholarly study and the entertaining style of a literary biography, the monograph paints vivid pictures from the life of different classes of Indian society in the colonial and independent India.

Sukhochev puts together the pieces of Chandar's mosaic in a broad-scale panorama of 20th-century India, where the present coexists side by side with the past, where scores of tongues, rites, habits and religions mix in a fantastic melting pot.

Sukhochev provides a multitude of eloquent details that convey the ethic, geographic and regional diversity of the vast country, with its striking difference between life-styles; the reader will easily see the difference between the life in the old Muslim town of Lahore and modern, active Bombay, and delight in the scenic beauty of romantic Kashmir that has left an unfading mark on Krishan Chandar's work.

Both dramatic and routine events of the writer's life have been reconstructed by Sukhochev not only from documentary evidence, accurate beyond a doubt but still hard as facts should be, but also distilling the biographical substance from the fiction works themselves. The graphic account of the writer's childhood and teenage years, illustrated with episodes described in his autobiographic prose, makes entertaining reading.

From his early adolescence, Krishan Chandar linked his fate to the destinies of his country, which is why his chronology is, in the broad sense, identical to the biography of modern India. The biographer demonstrates how the social theme in the writer's works was gathering momentum, and how his active civic attitudes crystallised in such outstanding pieces as *The Defeat*, *When the Fields Awoke* , *The Clear Sky*, *The Children From the Dadar Bridge*, and others. Simultaneously, Sukhochev retraces the evolution of the writer's literary style, from the early romantic writings to the truly demolishing satire of the trilogy about the adventures of the Donkey, or the story "Bourbon Club" (1950s—1960s).

Numerous readers will certainly be attracted by Sukhochev's forceful and profound account of the great Indian writer.

Clara Ashrafyan

THE MEDIEVAL INDIAN CITY OF THE 13TH TO MID-18TH CENTURIES, Nauka Publishers, Moscow.

The medieval Indian city presents a complex of problems as yet unresolved by scientists. Among them is the similarity and dissimilarity between the function of the city in medieval Europe and India, the role of external factors in the "urban explosion" which began in India in the 13th century, the influence of European commercial expansion on the socio-economic development of Indian cities and towns. In her monograph Clara Ashrafyan examines all these problems, basing herself on numerous chronicles in the Persian language, which were written at the courts of the Moslem feudal lords who ruled India, the monumental Sanskrit chronicle "Rajataranghini", by Kalhana documents pertaining to economics and statistics, a number of literary works from that period, and reports by Chinese, Arab and European travellers in India.

The first chapter of the monograph acquaints the reader with the high level of development of medieval Indian cities, evidence of which is furnished by the size of the population (in this respect India far surpassed medieval Europe), the multiplicity of handicrafts and trades, and the large volume not only of internal but also of external trade carried on by the Indian merchants.

Indian cities were characterized by a complex caste system. This specific feature found reflection in the division of labour and also in the character of city planning. Clara Ashrafyan discusses the caste question and its consequences in the second chapter of her book. She compares artisan caste groups in India with European medieval guilds; as in Europe, the interests of artisans and merchants clashed with the rule of the feudal lords. This generated a great number of heretical trends, which left a deep trace not only in the ideological but also in the literary history of India.

The author gives considerable space to the problems of urban economic administration whose function was not only to satisfy the requirements of the feudal lord and his court but also to ensure the effective functioning of trade and handicrafts. The study of these problems required a painstaking investigation of a mass of financial and administrative documents as well as state and judicial archives.

Of much interest is the analysis the author provides of the social struggle in medieval Indian cities. As the individual instances of class strife from armed revolts

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Textbooks for the Developing Countries

Last January a new printing house was launched at Patrice Lumumba Friendship University (Moscow). A unique feature of the venture is that it publishes textbooks specially written for students from the developing countries. One might think that there are enough textbooks in the Soviet Union to satisfy foreign students to pursue their studies. But the University authorities rightly consider that textbooks for their charges from the developing countries should be specially tailored to the economy, legal system, climatic conditions, farming and disease control of the countries from which they come. The aim is to suit the training of foreign students to the needs of their countries. Quite apart from that, it is important that textbooks be adapted to provide clear and simple presentation of complex subjects.

University instructors have produced suitable textbooks. Among the publications issued last year are *Historical Materialism for Students from the Developing Countries*, *Tropical Soil Management*, *The Social and Economic Development of Socialism-Oriented Countries: Theory and Practice*, and *The Problem of Restructuring International Monetary and Financial Relations and the Interests of the Developing Nations*.

There are plans for an annual output of 170-odd handbooks and abstract journals in addition to nearly 250 booklets.

For the time being, print runs are relatively small, ranging from 300 to 1,000 copies, However, as many as 50,000 copies of some books may be printed. *The Atlas of the History of Medicine*, for example, is expected to have a big print run. The edition will feature about 200 illustrations with commentaries on the major advances in medicine from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

"The primary objective is to make sure that there are enough textbooks for the educational process," says Valery Berezin, director of the printing house. "Nevertheless, in a drive to make a profit we plan to bring out specially designed trade editions, notably a series devoted to outstanding Oriental philosophers with a print run of 10,000 copies."

According to the Director, one of the tasks facing the publishers is the need to find marketing outlets not only within the University framework, but also elsewhere in the Soviet Union and abroad. This will require intensive promotional work. Although the publishers are treading new ground here, orders have already been placed by the higher schools from Alma-Ata, Tashkent, Leningrad, Baku, Kishinev and Dushanbe.

A curious thing about this is that few of the higher schools that applied for these University press publications have an enrolment of foreign students. Apparently, the subject matter of a number of the text editions and the methods employed in its presentation seem to have a universal attraction. Such editions are equally valuable to Soviet students. Incidentally, one such "multi-purpose" edition is *Neuropathology* by Professor Y. Martynov, D.Sc. (Medicine). The book has lately won an honorary diploma from the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education.

The new undertaking faces quite a few problems, but the 50-strong staff are enthusiastic. This seems to be one of the reasons that prompted Valery Berezin to make a bold prediction, "In the coming year the publishing house will become self-supporting and will begin to show a profit."

TATIANA OVCHARENKO
VAAP—INFORM

Religion and the Church in the USSR

There are 20,000 religious bodies and congregations of various denominations in the USSR. The Russian Orthodox Church administers 8,500-odd temples. The Moslems look after hundreds of major mosques and thousands of smaller rural and local places of worship. The faithful flock to 1,120 Roman Catholic cathedrals, 690 Lutheran churches, more than 2,000 churches of Evangelical Christian Baptists and Seventh-Day Adventists, 120 synagogues and a number of prayer houses of the smaller sects.. The Russian Orthodox Church

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publishes *Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate*, a monthly appearing in Russian and English. Jointly with the ecclesiastical academies it also brings out a yearbook *Theological Works*. Orthodox church calendars and newsletters of the Orthodox churches of the Ukraine, Hungary, Central Europe, Canada and Japan come out in mass printings. The past 15 years saw four reprints of the Bible. In 1983 alone 75,000 copies were made. The last edition of the Koran in 1983 had a print run of 40,000 copies. *The Moslems of the Soviet East* journal is regularly published in Arabic, English, French and Uzbek..

The most recent church publications in the Soviet Union include a prayer book of sheet music by the All-Union Council of the Evangelical Christian Baptists, a three-volume service-book by the Old-Believers Council, *Vazgen I—The Patriarch of All Armenians* by the Armenian Apostolic Church, etc. A big factory has been set up in 1979 in the environs of Moscow to make church paraphernalia and the utensils of worship. Training for the priesthood is provided by two Orthodox academies and three seminaries, two Roman Catholic seminaries, the Islamic Institute, the Higher Buddhist Institute and a Hebrew yeshivah. Students from 20 countries are enrolled at the ecclesiastical schools run by the Moscow Patriarchate.

This background material and a wealth of other interesting information are contained in Vladimir Kuroyedov's book *Religion and the Church in Soviet Society* issued by Politizdat publishers (Moscow) in 1984. Two editions of the book have already been released with a total print run of 400,000 copies.

The popularity of the book is due not only to the laboriously compiled up-to-date information on the status of the Church and the believers in the Soviet Union. Its chief asset is the author's interpretation, from a legal point of view, of complicated issues involved in the relationships between the Church and the Soviet authorities. The chapter devoted to documents and developments at the turn of the century is of enormous interest. Vladimir Kuroyedov gives an account of Leo Tolstoy's relations with the Dukhobors sect, whose members were able to secure the Tzar's "divine dispensation" to emigrate to America only after Tolstoy's intercession; relates about Patriarch Tikhon (Vasily Belavin), an activist of the Union of the Russian People, an offshoot of the notorious Black Hundreds gangs (xenophobic, anti-Semitic squads sponsored by the police); provides a commentary of the first decrees enacted by the Soviet government, that laid the groundwork of the current legal status of the Church in the Soviet Union, such as the "Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia" passed in November 1917 which abolished distinctions between "ruling" religion and "tolerable and intolerable" faiths, the appeal "To All Moslem Working People of Russia and the East" (November 20, 1917), "On Marriage Annulment" and "On Civil Marriage", "On the Separation of Church and State, and School and Church" (January 23, 1918), as well as laws on the family and a decree approving the introduction of civil registry offices (December 18, 1917).

Vladimir Kuroyedov's book, well supplied with statistics and factual material, makes a pioneerig study of the status of the Church and religion in Soviet society.

TAMARA TRIFONOVA
VAAP--INFORM

New Books from the USSR

Continued from page 41

to court litigation, are brought together, there emerges a very different picture from the one drawn by some specialists in the field and presenting the medieval Indian city as a harmonious social entity in which European discord was unknown. Clara Ashrafyan classifies the Bhakti movement, for example, as directed against feudalism, against the division into castes, which was a barrier in the way of economic progress. In Chapter Five, the author goes on to examine the work of famous poets who expressed the Bhakti ideology—Sheich Farid, Kabir, Namdev, Surdas, Dadu Dayal, and others. Characteristically, similar processes occurred in medieval Europe, which prompted historians to compare Bhakti with the Renaissance and the Reformation. She points out both the positive and negative features of such comparisons.

The sixth and final chapter of the monograph considers the ties between the city and the countryside in medieval India. It is the view of the author, one that is shared, incidentally, by most Soviet indologists, that the effect of commodity-money and market relations, which were concentrated in the city, was to further the property and social stratification of rural communes.

In conclusion Clara Ashrafyan offers her explanation of the reasons for the lag in the development of early capitalist relations in Indian cities as compared to Europe. She ascribes it, on the one hand, to the despotic rule of the Mogul lords in the 16th and 17th centuries, which suppressed the development of industry and commerce in India, and, on the other, to the consequences of European economic expansion policy.

LEV ROZHANSKY
VAAP-INFORM

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Poetry without the Yashmak

Modern Poetesses in the Soviet East

In recent years some of the central publishing houses of the Soviet Union, and in particular the large Khudozhestvennaya Literatura Publishers, have issued works by poetesses from the Soviet East, including Zulfia from Uzbekistan, Fazu Aliyeva, an Avar poetess, and Gulrukhsor Safiyeva from Tadjikistan.

The great Georgian poet Titsian Tabidze once remarked that poetry could be charming even from under the yashmak; the poetesses of the Soviet Eastern republics, like all the women of those lands, took off their veils fifty years ago.

The Poetry of Zulfia—the Voice of the Women of Uzbekistan

It is amazing to think that Zulfia's mother never crossed the threshold of her own home, while Zulfia herself has travelled all over the world. "My mother always reminded me of a bird with clipped wings," the famous Uzbek poetess subsequently remarked. She was born two years before the October Revolution, but she still remembers the bitter fate of women of the older generation. "At twelve years of age it was the yashmak, at fifteen—marriage, and at thirty—old age," said Zulfia, giving a concise and accurate summary of the life of an Uzbek woman.

Zulfia was fortunate—her conscious life coincided with the coming of Soviet power to Uzbekistan. Her first book was published when she was only seventeen, and it immediately brought her recognition. However, she was soon able to see that appearing in print did not necessarily make her a poet. She was later to write: "It's easy to become a poet when you are young; but only with the passage of time do you realize what a heavy burden you've shouldered." Zulfia's second book was published only seven years after her first.

Zulfia

Her meeting with the prominent Uzbek poet Khamid Alimdjan, who soon became her husband, played an important role in her life.

In 1943, during the war, *Pravda* printed her poem "Suzaneh", which became well known. In anticipation of her wedding, the young bride embroiders a suzaneh (bedspread) for her fiance, but he is killed in the war. This silk suzaneh becomes the embodiment of the girl's happier memories. The poem enjoyed tremendous popularity among Uzbek soldiers, for whom it was like news of the faithfulness of their loved ones.

"As a poet," Zulfia remarks, "I was really born during the war : all the grief and all the immense courage of our people filled up my soul and demanded some form of outlet. That was how my poem 'He Was Called Farkhad' came to be written; it is dedicated to the memory of Kabul Kari, a talented Uzbek actor, who died during the liberation of the Ukraine."

Over the years the element of philosophy has grown noticeably stronger in Zulfia's poetry and the lyrical song at times gives way to unhurried meditation. "A Woman's Luck" is a poem fairly representative of Zulfia's work; she argues with those who see women as being earmarked solely for domestic chores. Her reply is that only an outlet into the world-at-large, the world of diverse and varied interests, can make a person truly happy. In "Mushoira" she tried, in her own words, not so much to portray the traditional competition among poets in India as to show how real art can unite all people in brotherhood. "Poetry has served as a bridge of friendship between us, a means of drawing us closer together; it is a bridge of love and respect, a bridge of beauty."

In 1968 Zulfia received the Jawaharlal Nehru International Prize, and in 1970, the Lotus Prize. Her poems have been published in translation in India, Burma and Sri Lanka. Her many years of work on the magazine *The Uzbek Woman* has enabled her to feel the pulse of life in the republic and gives her much food for thought.

What is so attractive about Zulfia's poetry? In what lies her unique poetic expression? Most

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Fazu Aliyeva

Soviet critics would answer that her most important quality is the truly Uzbek character of her work; she does not avoid "unpoetic" themes, and writes with great feeling about both joy and grief.

The Love of a Highland Woman

The small Avar nation in the Caucasus has two great poets: one is the world-famous Rasul Gamzatov, and the other is Fazu Aliyeva.

This woman, who had earlier been condemned to spend her whole life toiling in her home, now determines, to a great extent, the development of her people's culture. Fazu Aliyeva is editor of the magazine *The Dagestan Woman*, a deputy to the republican Soviet and a member of the board of the Union of Writers. Her active public life is, in her own words, a necessary component of her work as a writer.

Aliyeva's central theme is a happy, shared love. Perhaps there is a trace of bitterness in her early poems and an echo of the nation's misfortune—her childhood was spent in the shadow of the war—but her mature verse is marked above all by the sheer joy of being.

Fazu Aliyeva's poetic heroines are always in love and are always loved. They are happy mothers and wives; the proud, independent disposition of a highland woman does not prevent her being feminine.

A Woman's Personality

Gulrukhsor Safiyeva belongs to the post-war generation. This young Tadjik poetess made her debut with a collection of verses entitled "Bunafsha" (The Violet), which immediately aroused considerable interest. Though she is fairly traditional in her choice of subject matter, both critics and the public appreciate the distinctive nature of her verse. Her books *The Song of the Spring*, *The Rainbow Flower* and *The Green Cradle* were published one after the other by Moscow publishing houses; and she is a winner of the Leninist Komsomol Prize.

Literary success can sometimes be something of an ordeal for a young writer, but Safiyeva has withstood this test.

Her collection *The Green Cradle* gives a sense of Safiyeva's desire to probe deep into the heart of problems and to ignore everything superficial. Her lyrical heroine is a girl of her own age, full of energy and plans for the future. She is accustomed to a way of life that a woman of the East would not even have dared dream about in earlier times. It is no accident that Safiyeva directs her gaze at history—both ancient and comparatively recent. In one of her best poems "Daughter of the East", she observes, compares and meditates; and so a new motif appears in her work: her heroine cannot be happy "if, somewhere, a woman of the East is crying".

NIKOLAI NAZAROV
VAAP- INFORM

Gulrukhsor Safiyeva

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BOOKS AND ART IN THE USSR

BOOKS AND ART IN THE USSR embraces practically all spheres of the country's intellectual life.

Politics and sociology, economy and medicine, psychology and sports, the latest discoveries in science and technology, such is the thematic range of the first section of the bulletin.

The section dealing with fiction and poetry features articles about the best-known Soviet prose-writers, dramatists and poets, interviews with authors of bestsellers, information about the books soon to appear in print, excerpts from new novels and stories published in literary journals and reviews of plays and theatrical productions.

The music section tells about modern Soviet symphony, chamber and popular music, new operas and ballets, informs about new discs and albums, books about music and musical premieres.

Besides presenting established scientists, writers, artists and composers, the bulletin makes a point of introducing talented young authors to the foreign reader.

The bulletin is richly illustrated with original drawings, reproductions of works by Soviet artists and photographs.

BOOKS AND ART IN THE USSR is a quarterly and contains 72 pages. It is published by the Copyright Agency of the USSR.

A Unique Publication

A new book series entitled *Colonialism: Past and Present* is in preparation at Progress publishers (Moscow). Publication is scheduled to begin in 1988 and will be completed in 1991.

It is planned to issue four volumes—*The Far East and South and South-East Asia, The Middle East and West Asia, Africa* and *Latin America*.

All the volumes will be published in English. Additionally, separate volumes will be available in the languages of the region they cover. For example, *The Middle East and West Asia* will be translated into Arabic, *Latin America*—into Spanish, and the first volume—into major Indian languages.

Wide use will be made of the data banks of the National Archives of India as well as of the Public Record Office in Great Britain.

ALLA MOTINA
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New Arrivals from USSR

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Boris Gorizontov
CAPITALISM AND THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS
pp. 170, Rs. 6.50

Professor B. B. Gorizontov, Doctor of Science (Economics), relies on abundant factual data in showing that the capitalist mode of applying the achievements of science and technology and the ruthless plunder of the environment by monopolies result in increasingly dangerous disruption of the ecological equilibrium.

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What is a military-industrial complex? What role does it play in the life of the United States? How does it influence US policy? These and other questions concerning the structure and mechanism of the military-industrial complex are examined here by Georgi Tsagolov, Doctor of Science (Economics).

Andrei Kozyrev
THE ARMS TRADE : A NEW LEVEL OF DANGER
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Trade in arms, which the United States and other Western powers are conducting on a mounting scale, is not only a multi-million dollar business, but also a tool of imperialist foreign policy. With its help the imperialist states try to hitch other countries to their cart politically, economically and militarily, support reactionary regimes with arms deliveries, build up their military presence in the strategically important regions of the world.

BIOGRAPHY

I. Lavretsky
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The book is devoted to the life and revolutionary activity of the outstanding fighter for the national liberation of the peoples of Latin America—Ernesto Che Guevara. The author has collected a lot of interesting documents, press reports, notes of his private talks with comrades-in-arms, friends and relatives of Che Guevara. The book shows that Che Guevara was an intrepid, self-sacrificing revolutionary, and a lively and charming man.

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V. Atabekov
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V. Finkel
THE PORTRAIT OF A CRACK
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There is a mighty metal structure that was expected to stand for ages has suddenly broken. Why? What causes disaster and fracture in a world of the strongest materials? How does a microcrack behave? From whence its strength and treachery? How is man learning to control this terrible force and to turn it to his own advantage? The author answers these questions and many others. The easy, natural manner of narration and the poetic quotations illustrating the author's conceptions make the book interesting as well as instructive.

MEDICINE

A. Shalimov and N. Dryuch
MODERN SURGERY OF VESSELS
pp. 210, Rs. 8.50

The book is based on the experience of work of the vascular surgery and microsurgery departments of the Kiev Scientific Research Institute of Clinical and Experimental Surgery of the Ministry of Public Health of the Ukrainian SSR as well as on the extensive experience of Professor

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A. A. Shalimov, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR. Figures are drawn according to drafts suggested by N. Dryuch and A. Radzikhovsky.

THEATRE

SELECTED WORKS OF KONSTANTIN STANISLAVSKY, compiled by Oksana Kornena: Raduga Publications, Moscow; pp 310, Price Rs. 8.50

Indian theatre, especially Hindi theatre, by and large, has been guided by the principles and norms set by Bharata in his *Natya Shastram*. But, in the late fifties and early sixties, Hindi theatre was influenced by European, especially the English theatre. It was at this time that enthusiastic young talent in theatre started to look for new devices and means in theatre to meet the present-day challenges. It is here that they came in contact, intellectually, through their writings with Brecht and Stanislavsky. Perhaps these two have influenced most of the theatre scene in the world of today. Both have no pretensions and have built their own style and produced a new grammar for theatre. Both had to face the social challenges of their times and this is the prime reason that both of them are relevant to the India of today.

Konstantin Stanislavsky is a legend in the world of theatre and to acquaint the new, and uninitiated, reader to his ideas and norms set by him for theatre, Raduga Publishers of Moscow have done a good job by bringing out the *Selected Works*. The book is beautifully compiled by Oksana Korneva and aesthetically produced. The 'works' throw ample light on Stanisalvsky as an explorer and naturalist. He was the first to solve the problem of consciously mastering the subconscious and then linked it to the process of creative work on the stage. He laid great emphasis on an actor being transformed into a character. With these basic conceptions, Stanislavsky developed the laws of the technique of acting.

The major thrust of Stanislavsky was directed to attain the fulness of the inner emotion and demonstrate before the audience this fulness in its true colour. He discarded exaggerated gesture and action while playing a role. He himself was a good actor and believed that "to be a good Director one had to be a born actor".

Stanislavsky also laid emphasis on costumes and other properties which would lend authenticity. To achieve this authenticity, he would travel to places far off and acquire relevant material. He worked with sincerity and always told his actors and other colleagues to be sincere to the cause of theatre. Sincerity and simplicity were no mere words to him. They were the planks on which he built up the entire superstructure of his style.

It was Stanislavsky who staged Chekhov's plays at a time when Chekhov was considered monotonous and a bore. Stanislavsky got a great deal of praise from Pushking who helped him develop his own conception about the stage. Theatre, for Stanislavsky, was not just a source of amusement. It was a powerful means of communication.

EXPLORATION

POLAR DIARIES by Yevgeny Fedorov; Progress Publishers Moscow; pp 344 plus 16 pages photos, Price Rs 8

Imagine a small island made up of ice which is floating at an average speed of 12-15 kms, occasionally more, per day and a team of dedicated scientists, explorers and dare-devil adventurers for whom death stalks at every step, traversing a total distance of over 3 thousand kms in high latitudes from North Pole of the earth to the coast of Greenland. This is what the *Polar Diaries* are about.

It is not just a story of an adventure. It is the story of success of Soviet Science. Following in the footsteps of Emundson, the Soviets decided to establish research stations in the Arctic region and the author, Yevgeny Fedorov, a geo-physicist of some standing in the USSR, got involved in it first with a spirit of adventure and then it became an irreversible obsession with him.

The entire book, covering many trips of the author to the Arctic region, and the climax of which is the part where the author and his team-mates are dropped by a plane on the North Pole which would be their home/research-station for months to come, reads like a thriller. Today, when the knowledge of Arctic/Antartic regions is fairly wide and thorough, the whole thing may not sound much to a reader. But, in the years from 1919 and 1938 when the exercise was undertaken, the venture was nothing short of a suicide pact.

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WOMEN OF ALL NATIONS

A Record of their Characteristics, Habits, Manners, Customs and Influences

(IN TWO VOLUMES)

EDITED BY

ATHOL JOYCE & N.W. THOMAS

Since man rose above the lowest grade of savagery, woman has been the theme of poets, the model of artists and sculptors, and the despair to the males, generally. There have always been contradictory opinions about woman. Ancient mythology and medieval chivalry placed her on a high pedestal of divinity while philosophers like Schopenhauer assured us that she is inferior, both mentally and physically, to the stronger sex. But the sound judgement of the average man will reject the paradoxes and by simple process of natural selection eliminate from the character of the fair sex what is unpleasing in the advanced woman of the present day.

Taking a broad view of history, it may be said that the work is the story of how woman has ceased to be the slave of man, as she is among the people in the lowest planes of culture, and has become his help-mate.

The work has no pretension to trace the course of this development, but in the sequel, the reader will find in it the description of woman as she is at the present day among the people of the world. The work also furnishes ample materials for a reconstruction of the story of the advancement of woman from the lowest grade to the place she occupies to-day.

The work describes *WOMEN OF ALL NATIONS AND RACES* both civilized and tribal and brings out all important aspects of their life, viz. conception of beauty, ornamentation, dresses, courtship and marriage, position in the family and society, role as the wife and as the mother, position of the widows, music and dance, position in view of religion, beliefs and superstitions, role in social organisation and state administration, their happiness and sufferings, etc. etc. The work has thus been of an encyclopaedic nature, both in scope and in treatment of the subject.

There are 647 photographs and 24 colour illustrations in the book from all parts of the world. They have been selected because they are typical of the people whom they represent.

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ASOKE KUMAR GHOSH*

Product Quality to Boost Exports

During the last World Book Fair while I had occasion to browse through the books at the various stalls, a very significant line from the Bible caught my attention—"Of the making of many books there is no end". Though used in a different context this line taken in isolation has special significance in our own age. The world has produced more books just during the last 25 years than were ever produced earlier through the ages. This is no less true for India as it is for the rest of the world.

Today India ranks seventh in the world in production of books, and is the third largest book producing country in the English language after the U.S.A and the United Kingdom. Within the Third World we are, of course, the largest book producers.

Our progress in book production generally follows the progress made in other fields. But we cannot say this of its quality—and this in a large measure inhibits our export. It is true our book export increased many folds in the last 10 years to the present Rs. 25 crores; but look at this figure from the global point of view. Our share in the world market is very insignificant and less than 0.2%. It is all the more distressing when we do have an immense potential and *can* achieve a target of Rs. 100 crores. Our books are comparatively inexpensive; besides the great demand for books on Indian art, history, philosophy and religion in the Western countries, the Third World is looking for our college and school level books and books on science and technology.

Two vital factors that affect book exports are the editorial standard and production quality. While the subject, the content and the cultural editorial standards do play a key role, we shall restrict our discussion to product quality.

A professional marketing man knows how important 'packaging is to the marketability of his product. But, in the case of the book, the product itself constitutes its own packaging without which the book does not exist.

So, when we talk of the packaging of books, we are really talking about production and this has a bearing on four important components: Paper, Composing, Printing and Binding. Let me briefly touch on each of these in the context of export.

The first reason why our exports of books do not do as well as they could, is because of the poor quality of paper. To say that the quality of our paper is poor is an under-statement. While the price of paper in India has escalated almost 600%, the quality, on the other hand, has stood still where it was, if not deteriorated. Very scant attention, if any, is paid to the qualitative manufacture of paper, like minimizing of manufacturing defects, the control of paper opacity and acidity and ensuring the rigid uniformity of paper shades.

And because the paper-making industry is so heavily capital-intensive, Indian Book Publishers can do little at present except pay perhaps the highest price in the world for perhaps the poorest kind of paper. Paper, in terms of cost, constitutes 30% of the price of a book in India. In Japan, to take one instance, this figure is a mere 10%.

We can and do pay a higher price for better quality paper, but this is a price we can afford only if we judiciously mobilize and manage our financial resources. Indian Publishers can also collectively bring pressure to bear on the powers that be to step up the production of quality paper, halt the export of such quality paper as we do produce, and make available imported paper to Publishers.

The second of the four book production functions is the function of typesetting. One of the weakest links in the process of book production is at this stage.

Here, too, despite rather extensive modernization in recent years, when till lately even computerised photo-composing machines were available on Open General Licence, what we forgot to "modernize", as we modernized our machines, were the men who operate these machines.

In the type-setting stage, I include the typesetter, the proof-reader, and all the other human agents who are responsible for overseeing the transformation of the manuscript into a saleable book.

It is at this point that our production methods in India are most

* Asoke Kumar Ghosh, Chairman and Managing Director of Prentice Hall of India Pvt. Ltd., is President of F.I.P.

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subject to mistakes caused by human error. This is so because the bulk of the people employed at this stage are semi-literate who with the gain in experience may become good artisans, but lack the mental dexterity and sophistication needed for the job.

This primary disability is something he carries with him right through his career. And it is a disability which seriously inhibits the inputs he makes to the process of book production.

The question that needs to be asked is, why must this be so? Why is it that the printing industry tolerates the second and third rate candidates at a time when in India the five star hotels insist that even their room service waiters be at least college graduates?

It is true, a few enlightened printers do employ educated personnel, but they lack the technical expertise and exposure to the machine. For instance, a graduate with a knowledge of typing, but lacking in technical skill can never perform efficiently on a photo-setting machine. In addition to his academic and typing knowledge he needs technical skill to deliver the desired quality product. The *man* behind the machine is as important as the machine itself.

From composing we come to the next stage—*printing*.

If you pick up at random any book, the chances are you will find a complete absence of uniformity in the inking from form to form, and often even from page to page. If it is a letterpress work, the results of improperly locked founts or smashed type invariably jump out of the page at you. The reason for these is obvious; we are not quality conscious.

But why should be it so?

Far too many of our printing organizations are first or second generation success stories that started with treadle machines housed in a small room. Today they comprise many million rupee multicolour machines staffed by more people than perhaps the original treadle pressman had customers. Yet the thinking and ambitions which drive these organizations somehow got stuck at the treadle machine age.

These men are, or rather should be, professionals. Professionally trained, professionally employed, and above all professionally qualified and paid as well. The sooner the printing houses—on whom the book publishers depend on—realize this, the sooner they will be able to help tap the vast potential profits that wait to be made through the export of books.

The need for the necessary technological inputs and the adoption of modern methods for the printing process cannot be overstressed. As a publisher, I have much to be thankful for to the printing industry. But also as a publisher, there is much more I expected from it. And it is high time they started delivering.

Next we come to the *binding* process stage. With the not-so-good binding and with papers predisposed to falling apart at the slightest impact and with the not-so-pleasant smell of the glue, we may be able to get away within the Indian market. But, when we strive for export for our books, we face competition with the advanced countries where the readers also look for the quality of binding besides paper.

My own experience with foreign importers even as near as Singapore showed that some of our books got damaged because of inferior quality of binding. The idea that the hard cover always withstands more wear and tear is also thinning out. We have ourselves changed to good laminated paper cover with better results.

Binding materials should be appropriate for the format and weight of the book, the fabricignatures, folding in relation to paper grammage and volume thickness, spine adhesion, direction of paper grain.

If the book is uncased, the right kind of stitching should be used on the signatures, folding in relation to paper grammage and volume thickness, spine adhesion, direction of paper grain, and easy accessibility to its contents on opening the book.

That the quality of book production is very important to win the export market is borne out by the expectations of our foreign importers. My own experience and observation show that the foreign buyer, despite his knowledge that the Indian books are *still* cheaper, is also conscious that he is paying more and more every year for our books. His psychological expectation is that he is entitled to get a little better quality product for the higher value spent.

Now to conclude, let me summarize in essence what we had so far discussed to enhance the quality of the books for better export prospects.

To enhance the quality of the type and composing the publisher, instead of carrying for the 'big name' status or the 'reputation' of the printer, should consider only the professionalism of the operatives employed by the printer and the equipment used.

In the case of binding, I want to add that the publishers need to take their binder into confidence, consult and seek his advice—which publishers rarely do. It is the binder who can make or mar the product; the correct stitching, gluing to the cover, margin at the sides, and size of the book itself—all depends on the binder's professional acumen. So it is wiser to consult him at the planning stage itself.

For the eye-appeal—the important factor in marketing—jacket designing and lamination need to be done through creative artists and quality laminators having necessary sophistication.

Every publisher gets the quality he deserves. Good quality is nothing else but the end-result of good management. The better we manage our production of books—with the human, financial and technological resources—the better will we be able to export them.

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O. P. GHAI*

Indian Publishing Forges Ahead

Brief Historical Background

Publishing arrived in India towards the close of the sixteenth century when Jesuit missionaries brought the printing press into the country. It was an adjunct to evangelism but soon the dynamics of communication took over, and the activity, in the 19th century, began to encompass larger and secular areas. It received a two-fold impetus: (1) With the educational system becoming organised after the acceptance of Macaulay's report on education, books were needed for the new educational system and (2) as the Indian renaissance gained roots, especially in Bengal, publishing began to assume its rightful role in the country's intellectual life. While educational publishing remained in the hands of British-owned subsidiaries of such companies as Macmillan, Longman and Oxford University Press, cultural publishing remained with men who were related to the national awakening.

Publishing since Independence

Book publishing as an organized activity is almost coincidental with the dawn of Independence. There was of course the generativeness of the free state, the prolific political debate, the spillover from the media, and the emergence of an indigenous capitalism in publishing. Books were churned out in English, which stayed on as the unacknowledged *lingua franca*, and in the Indian languages as their literacy bases expanded. Soon Indian publishing began serving the needs of Indians settled abroad in large numbers, and even supplying textbooks to the countries of Asia and Africa, and academic books to libraries and research institutes all over the world.

India ranks seventh in the world in terms of the number of titles published annually, according to UNESCO statistics. And even more significant is the fact that we occupy the third position in terms of the number of English titles published, after the USA and the UK. This fact alone gives Indian publishing an enormous opportunity to contribute actively to the transnational movement of ideas and information in the decades to come.

*O. P. Ghai is Chairman of Sterling Publishers (Pvt.) Ltd.

Indian linguistic plurality has resulted in translation of books growing into a considerable discipline, with its own technology and expertise. As long as English remains a language of science, higher pedagogy, commerce and industry, and as these activities unite the diverse regions of the country, Indian books translated into English ensure the quickest and most efficient trans-lingual dispersal.

Books Produced in India, Subjectwise

	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Assamese	196	193	350
Bengali	1045	1025	1032
English	7655	6983	5856
Gujarati	767	677	708
Hindi	2225	2556	2811
Kannada	500	502	417
Malayalam	757	913	607
Marathi	1361	1138	1264
Oriya	445	248	611
Punjabi	308	325	308
Sanskrit	43	104	97
Sindhi	—	—	—
Tamil	1135	1315	1152
Telugu	389	392	1030
Urdu	286	388	300
Other Languages	55	39	110
Total:	17168	16798	16650

More important is the fact that English translations will provide the vital tie-up the Indian languages need with the world metropolis.

India has a comparative advantage over many other countries, both economically in terms of book production costs, and linguistically in terms of the widespread capacity to use English in the preparation, publication and dissemination of knowledge. Too often in the past the flow of ideas and information has been predominantly from other parts of the world, particularly Europe and North America to India and not from India to the

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rest of the world. Indian authors and publishers will have to take up the challenge of making it a two-way traffic.

Let us bear in mind that India's creativity is not confined to the past nor is it restricted to the philosophical, religious, literary or artistic persuasions. India is contributing vitally to the more temporal persuasions, the developmental, sociological and scientific debates which move contemporary societies.

Therefore, it is imperative that more books, better books, and low-priced books be published in abundance, as a national objective.

Public and the Private Sectors

Ours is a mixed economy, which is as much reflected in book publishing as in other sectors. The publications brought out by the state sector include not only parliamentary reports, policy documents of the Government of India, etc., but also school textbooks, children's literature, biographies and works of cultural and aesthetic significance. Often these are subsidized by the state. Publications of school texts by government agencies is now an accepted fact in the country. In some cases even the distribution is undertaken by the state. This denies the private publishers of the most lucrative branch of publishing.

The state's entry into publishing of textbooks has not produced ideal results. Mr Narendra Kumar, Past President, Federation of Indian Publishers, rightly says:

> The textbooks being used today, produced under a State monopoly, show a total disregard for quality, either in context or similar disregard for revision and updating, a lack of care in the commissioning and screening of authors; and no concern for regional and ethnic variations in requirements. Indeed, these shoddy texts, far from being a help, are a deterrent to learning, and since sales are guaranteed and there is no competition, the dismal situation continues. In fields where private publishers have been allowed to operate in publishing college-level texts, for instance, they have shown that they are capable of responsible and serious publishing. There is no reason to believe that this cannot be so in the case of school textbooks also. It should be possible for the government to monitor private textbook publishing with a view to ensuring quality and for the NCERT to set guidelines for publishers to follow.
>
> Healthy competition improves the quality of products. Nationalization, on the other hand, tends to replace a large number of texts by a single one; a diversity of views, approaches and solutions by set formulae; and variety in presentation by a repetition that numbs the senses. At the simplest level, this means that where there should be a range and wealth of authors, there are only a handful; where there should be a multiplicity of choice, there is only the lowest common denominator; and where there should be a steady and strong infusion of ideas, there is often only a tired retelling of facts. Where is the impetus?

We feel that the Government should involve private publishers in the production of school textbooks. It will ensure a better cash flow and the publishers will be able to bring out other varieties of much needed literature.

There are some private publishers already engaged in producing school textbooks. They publish mostly for elitist private schools in metropolitan centres. Besides textbooks, they successfully market supplementary reading material which the state does not provide. Scholarly publishing, however, is by and large in the hands of private publishers. Such work is normally done by university presses in other countries. Not only are the sales of these academic titles very slow but the payments are blocked generally for a long time.

Various literary academies supported by the state governments publish outstanding works of literature. This genre of publishing, however, seldom involves a realistic awareness of economic factors.

Cooperation with Socialist Countries

Ever since the beginning of the Moscow International Book Fair, there has been a notable increase in participation by Indian publishers. This cultural link has resulted in a number of Russian books being translated into English and quite a few Indian languages. A few Indian books have also been translated into Russian languages. However, there is a much larger potential in this area of exchange yet to be realized. I am sure that in the years to come cooperation between publishers in India and the socialist countries will further increase. Already similar exchange arrangements have been concluded with GDR, Yugoslavia and Poland. These bonds will certainly have much to contribute to international understanding and world peace.

Book Exports

Books published in India are being exported to almost all countries. But India's share of the world market is negligible, despite the fact that in terms of English language publishing India ranks third in the world. Of its total exports, the volume is largely made up of exports to the English-speaking countries.

Traditionally over 50 per cent of India's book exports went to the USA and Britain (consisting largely of Indology and Orientalia), most of the rest going to countries with large Indian immigrant populations.

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This pattern is now undergoing a rapid change. The US and the UK together account for only 35 per cent of our exports, while new markets in Singapore, Malaysia Sri Lanka, Bangaldesh, Nepal, the Middle East and Africa are fast assuming major importance. Altogether, Indian books are now being exported to over 80 countries.

Explaining this phenomenon, Asang Machwe, Director of Wiley Eastern, says, "College level Indian textbooks have a great cost advantage over their foreign competitors; they are priced at only a quarter of their American or British counterparts; and their intellectual level and the background that is assumed are much more appropriate to conditions in Third World countries."

This fact is corroborated by Narendra Kumar, Managing Director of Vikas Publishing House. He says, "All English-speaking countries that were once part of the British Empire have so far been monopolised by the British publishers. Sixteen out of 36 African countries do not have printing presses, and are totally dependent on imports. Now that educational publishing in India has come of age, Indian textbooks are in a strong position to take over from British ones, both because they are cheaper and more suited to local conditions."

The Government of India provides some support for the export of books. The Publication Panel of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) coordinates promotion and resolves problems faced by book exporters. In addition, the National Book Trust participates in Book Exhibitions and Fairs abroad and the Government gives travel subsidy for export promotion. But all this is nothing compared to the massive support given by the American, British and Soviet Governments to the publishers of their countries. We need some machinery like the British Council which is regularly and scientifically promoting British books all over the world.

Indian publishers have the capability and the technical knowhow to make a dent on book exports. They have already increased their exports from Rs. 6 crores in 1978-80 to about Rs. 20 crores in 1984-85.

Given suitable encouragement with incentives, simple procedures, visits of prominent publishers and cooperation from our missions abroad, Indian books could gain an important position the world over, especially in Asian and African countries.

Federation of Indian Publishers

I will conclude the article with a note on the Federation of Indian Publishers which is the representative body of publishers in English, Hindi and other languages with its membership drawn from all over India. All the leading publishers of the country are its direct members, other publishers being represented through various local associations and the Federation's regional offices at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Bangalore.

The Federation is a registered society. Its present membership is over 400, including several regional associations like the Tamilnadu Publishers Association, Kerala Publishers Association and Karnataka Publishers Association.

The main objective of the Federation is to promote professional standards among members and provide a forum for publishers to discuss their problems at the national and international levels.

The Federation is affiliated to the International Publishers Association.

It also functions as the Regional Office of the International Publishers Association for South Asia.

The Federation has been organising training courses and seminars from time to time on different aspects of publishing and allied issues. In some of its training courses, countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have also participated. In February 1979 it organised a workshop on book publishing. An International Seminar on Distribution and Marketing of Books was held in 1980, and a training course in copyright in March 1981.

The Federation has instituted annual awards for excellence in book production.

Lately the Federation has become very active in the international field. Three independent delegations, without any Government assistance, went to the USSR, China and the UK. With their Soviet counterparts they have formed a Working Group, the meetings of which will alternately be held in the USSR and India. The aim of the Working Group is to enlarge the areas of cooperation by holding joint seminars, organising book exhibitions, exchanging publishing experts and by exchanging bibliographic information on books published in India and the USSR.

The Federation is now housed in its own building, Federation House, at 181/C Institutional Area (near JNU) New Delhi-110067.

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NARINDER NATH*

Indian Books for Developing Countries

According to UNESCO statistics, about 80 per cent of the total number of titles (about 0.5 million) published every year are from Europe, Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States. Two-thirds of the world population is thus handicapped in its search for a better and fuller life for lack of one of the essential tools of progress: books and reading materials. Low production, inadequate distribution channels and high costs of imports combine to deprive the public of the reading materials it needs. On the other hand, with the rapid technological changes taking place in the world, the demand for books is growing, particularly in the developing countries.

Book exports from India developed only during the last decade. Exports of books, journals and periodicals rose from Rs. 18 million in 1974-75 to about Rs. 220 million during 1984-85. Still, there is ample scope for India to improve its share in the world trade of books. It is estimated that British publishers are in a position to export books and publications to the tune of about Rs. 6,000 million per year. Publishers from the United States export books and publications worth about Rs. 4,000 million per year. Books exports from West Germany amount to about Rs. 1,500 million per year. Our share in the world market is hardly 0.5 per cent. The question then arises what are the impediments which stand in our way and how we can compete and build our book exports in the developing countries. What is the status of book production in India and what is the scope for Indian books in these markets?

India is reported to be the 10th largest book-producing country in the world and the 3rd largest in producing booksin English. Out of about 15,000 titles published in India every year about 7,500 are in English.' Besides this, about 10,000 journals and periodicals and magazines are published in our country. Exact statistics relating to the number of publishers in the country are not available. It is estimated that there are about 8,000 active publishers of which 990 are corporate bodies like the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Book Trust, university and research institutions, NCERT, Publications Division, Lalita Kala Akademi, National Museums, etc. In recent years the quality of Indian publishing has significantly improved. With the setting up of modern printing facilities and improved quality of reproduction methods a new enthusiasm has been generated in the printing and publication industry, but India has yet a long way to go to compete with its Western counterparts. With all the existing and expected facilities, India can make rapid progress in developing its book exports, especially to the developing countries.

I have had the opportunity to visit some developing countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Egypt, Hongkong, Ceylon, Thailand Turkey. From the nature of enquiries which we received in the book exhibitions organised in these countries, it has been observed that there is a good deal of interest in Indian books especially, in books on science and technology, business management, medicine, international relations, economics, books about India, children's books and books on Indian religion, philosophy and Yoga. Further, it has been observed that many new educational institutions and libraries are being set up in many developing countries. We need to make special endeavours to make known and available latest books on various subjects to librarians, university academics and booksellers. Our books are considered not only comparatively cheap but also easily understandable by students of the developing countries. Curriculum and standards in most of the universities in the developing countries are similar to those prevailing in India.

* Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi.

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Our present share in the export of books to these countries has so far been negligible. The position, however, differs from country to country. In most of the developing countries, books on science and technology, engineering and medicine in English are in use. For example, our books on science and technology, business management, international relations and Islamic studies can find good markets in Kenya, Tanzania, Iran, Iraq, Bangladesh, Egypt, Sudan, Indonesia. Books on these subjects in Indian languages are also in good demand in Trinidad, Mauritius and Fiji. Books on Buddhist studies and Indian philosophy are specially required in Burma, Thailand and Ceylon.

To develop book exports to the developing countries is not an easy task. Most of them are short of foreign exchange and many African importers expect books on a long-tern credit basis. In some countries, for example Indonesia, there are restrictions imposed by the customs authorities. In some other countries the language problem stands in our way. In many Latin American countries, Spanish is the spoken language and in many countries in Africa French is the spoken language. At present we export few books and publications to these countries. But even people in these countries would like to know about India and Indian religion and philosophy. Taking these factors into consideration the Government provides several incentives for augmenting our book exports. Export of books abroad is important not only for earning foreign exchange. It is also a desirable activity as books are considered cultural ambassadors of the country. For these reasons efforts are being made to publicise Indian books abroad through participation in international book fairs with the assistance of the National Book Trust, organisation of special book exhibitions abroad and publication of special publicity brochures/journals, etc. Publishers are also assisted to encourage their participation in various book fairs through schemes at present operated by the Chemical and Allied Product Export Promotion Council. Cash assistance and import replenishment licences are granted to exporters of books and publications. In spite of these our book exports to developing countries are only about 2 to 3 per cent of their total imports.

Export of books to various countries abroad is to be linked not only with the economic benefits the country derives. It also helps in disseminating the culture of one to another. Let us take, for example, the motto of Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga : 'Trust, Mutual Understanding progress'. This Soviet firm is so well organised that it has been able to bring up its trade turnover to the value of 100 million roubles per annum. The efforts being made by the British Council and USIS to popularise books have helped British and American publishers a great deal. The USSR copyright agency is doing a commendable job in bringing publishers and authors together to negotiate copyright and translation rights.

I have noted from their quarterly journal *Books and Arts in USSR* for 1985, International Book Fair, Moscow, that Soviet publishers propose to display the latest books on subjects like Micro-processor Control Systems in Robotics, Analysing Air Pollution, Micro-biological Conversion of Metals—topicsof latest interest. We have very friendly relations with the copyright agency of the USSR and our Federation of publishers have also entered into a special agreement with the USSR State Committee for Publishing and Printing and Book Trade.

If we have to compete with book distributors from the developed countries, who are well-entrenched in the developing countries, we shall have to take radical measures to adopt a planned strategy for promoting our books abroad. This cannot be achieved through the efforts of any single organisation or institution. If we have to make a dent in the developing countries we may consider the question of setting up a separate Foreign Book Exhibition Wing either under the National Book Development Council or elsewhere which should exclusively look after the organisation of book exhibitions and book promotional activities abroad. Some of the main functions which this Wing can perform are:

(*i*) To undertake market surveys in foreign countries in order to find out the suitability of introducing Indian books; study of educational systems at school as well as college and university levels, the syllabi followed in those countries, the lists of books prescribed and to advise publishers on publishing the right type of titles for which demand can be created in particular markets.

(*ii*) Participation in international book fairs on a national scale.

(*iii*) Organisation of book exhibitions on university campuses on the lines of the British Council and in capitals of important countries with the assistance of our missions abroad.

(*iv*) Preparation of consolidated subject-wise catalogues.

(*v*) Preparation of publicity folders, brochures, newsletters, containing reviews of books.

(*vi*) Preparation and maintenance of mailing lists of potential buyers abroad.

(*vii*) Joint publicity in foreign newspapers and journals

(*viii*) To guide its members in appointing agents and stockists abroad.

(*ix*) Appointment of wholesale stocking agents and setting up of book promotion offices in selected places abroad

(*x*) To negotiate reprint and translation rights.

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Reviews of Latest Publications from India

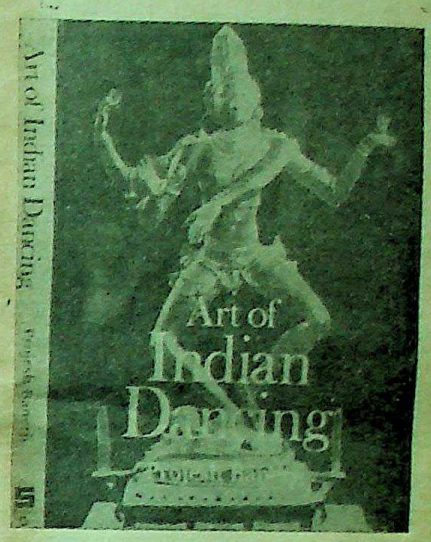
Art and Culture

ART OF INDIAN DANCING by Projesh Banerji, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 172, Rs. 175.

The rich heritage and culture of India is depicted in the various forms of Indian dance. We find detailed accounts of the codification of this art in ancient Sanskrit books especially the *Natya Shastra*. This art had been traditionally handed down from the gods and has come to stay in the world. A special feature of what we recognise as the classical dances—the Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Manipuri and Odissi—is that the temple played a vital role in their creation. They all had their birth in the temple precincts. Other forms are the folk dance which is for the sheer pleasure of the performers, the Tagore school of lyrical dance, and the Uday Shankar's style of dance which has the mark of his genius, masterly mind and creative art. The Yakhkshagana of Karnataka, a form of musical dance drama, is ten centuries old and the Kathak, the classical dance of north India, has its origin in the Indo-Mughal cultural fusion.

The author's aim is to show the correct path of renewal since the true modern dance forms are nothing but the revival of ancient Indian dance where gestures and postures were the chief elements.

The book is a comprehensive study of its own kind. It covers all aspects of Indian dance—its tradition, treatment in ancient scriptures, music in relation to dance, costumes, modern trends in stage lighting, and choreography. It is the result of more than four decades of the author's dedication, and will be a source of instruction and pleasure to art students, dancers, connoisseurs and scholars alike.



POET : Painter, Paintings by Rabindranath Tagore, Interpretation by Mulk Raj Anand, Abhinav Publications, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 86, Rs. 150.

Ananda Coomaraswamy once said : "Every man is an artist but an artist is a special kind of man". Dr. Mulk Raj Anand interprets the paintings of Rabindranath Tagore in the light of this aphorism. Indeed, the poet Rabindranath found himself doodling on page proofs : His pen became a brush; the brush followed the rhythm of his hand. And what was once written in words became a picture. Later, he self-consciously painted in black and white, and colour, certain imperceptible feelings, which welled up in him as poems used to do before. He was himself surprised to find that the poet in him had turned painter. Indian critics reluctantly accepted the disharmony of the pictures, while in the West he was hailed as one of the few surrealist artists of Asia. Certainly, his paintings echo the collective unconscious of his time.

KHAJURAHO : Erotica & Temple Architecture by Maqbool Ahmad, Asian Publications Services, 1985, pp. 80, Rs. 200.

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The art of Khajuraho is the Art of Temple Architecture. In the sacred atmosphere of these temples, one witnesses the intense moments of union of couples in various moods and forms. They depict no ordinary union of men and women. Instead, they are the manifestations of the cosmic form : 'Purusa' the God with 'Sakti', the mother form. They are in union as part of prayer and religious rituals. Their actions have been depicted by the marvellous chisels of the master craftsmen of the time who have left a legacy unrivalled by any architectural remains in any part of the world.

HISTORY OF MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE VOL. II by R. Nath, Abhinav, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 348, colour Illus. 24, tables of Hirji and Illahi eras and appendices Rs. 800

This volume deals with Personality Architecture of the classical age of Akbar: his buildings of Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri. It studies, with the help of contemporary sources, including Persian histories, paintings and epigraphs, the growth and development of this style of architecture from the sacred to the secular, from 'Loka' Durbari and from Theory to Practice—to the level and status of a national style.

CREATIVE DRAMA AND PUPPETRY IN EDUCATION, by Meher R. Contractor, National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, 1984, pp. 100. Rs. 11.50

In a fast developing country like India much is being done for education and its advancement, but the creative arts are often overlooked, perhaps due to lack of specially trained personnel. This book provides a general guide to help those who want to conduct training courses in puppetry and creative drama or to use these techniques in education, social work, recreation, occupational therapy and audio-visual education for communicating ideas to both children and adults.

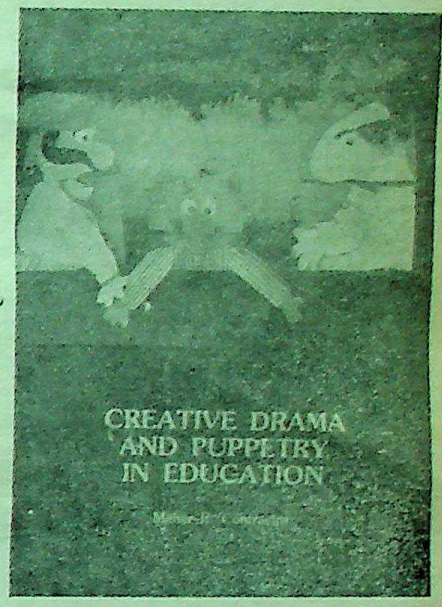
The author is a well-known authority on Puppetry. She has represented India at several international puppet festivals and conducts teachers' courses in puppetry and creative arts.

INDIA: A CULTURAL VOYAGE, by Udai Narain Tewari, Select Book Service Syndicate, New Delhi, pp. 237 Rs. 125.

India is a land of eternal resurgence. Writing history might or might not have been a vocation with ancient Indians. Creating history through a ceaseless process of an onlooking culture has definitely been a divine pastime. Cultural strides in India through more than thirty centuries constitute the theme of the book. It provides an insight into survey linkages of those strides, lauded and aspired for by mankind.

The book traces the voyage of Indian culture through its excellences in the realms of religion, philosophy, aesthetics, languages and sciences with a lively and unique system of deciphering unity in diversity.

The book contains readings from Kadambari, Mahabharata, Gandhi, and secular saints.



Economy and Business

INDIAN ECONOMY : The Regional Dimension, by Amitabh Kundu & Moonis Raza, Spectrum Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi, 1982, 150 pp. Rs. 70

The spatial dimension of development continues to be one of the neglected areas of economic analysis. Although some of the studies on growth models take subnational units as the geographic basis, not much

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empirical work is available to give content to these theories. In India, the requirements of imperialist exploitation during British rule and the zeal for national development thereafter were the additional factors that impeded the recognition of regional entities within the national polity during the nineteenth and a large part of the twentieth century. The stresses and strains generated in recent years as a result of disparities in the levels of development acquired alarming proportions and brought the need for a proper understanding of the regional dimension to a sharp focus.

The present study is an investigation into the changes in the space economy of India during the past fifteen years or so taking the National Sample Survey regions as the basic units of the analysis. The pattern of agricultural development has been analysed with the help of a large number of indicators relating to productivity, technological inputs and agrarian relations. An attempt is made to identify the factors responsible for the spatial differentiation associated with the green revolution. Similarly, the pace and pattern of industrialisation have been analysed with an eye on the changes in the rural-urban interdependencies and the organisation of space. The empircal investigations lead to generalisation of some significance regarding the regional structure of development along the essentially capitalistic path and provide a basis for building up a theory of modified underdevelopment in the context of the third world countries.

INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN PLANNED ECONOMY, by K.K. Singh, Amar Prakashan Delhi, 1985, pp. 190, Rs. 120

In recent years there has been increasing concern over the performance of public enterprises in India. Decidedly, most of them have so far failed to fulfil their economic role. Spokesmen of the private sector have decried the inefficiency of the public sector.

The present study examines whether the performance of public enterprises should be judged merely by the cost-benefit criterion. It relates the performance of two important and strategic public enterprises of India : HRL and HEC.

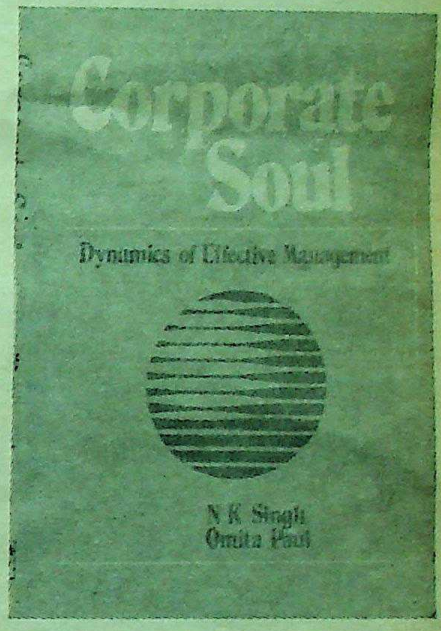
The study comes to the conclusion that the performance of a public enterprise should not be judged simply from an accountant's point of view. A public enterprise has to meet various social ends and produce many intangible benefits for the economy. A private enterprise is judged by the criterion of private profit rather than social gain.

BANK CREDIT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA, by J.K. Sharma, Classical Publishing Company, New Delhi, 1985, 216 pp., Rs. 125

The present study critically examines the role of commercial bank credit in promoting development of the Indian economy since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan. The financial infrastructure of the Indian economy is more developed than that of many other developing countries, and it has played a dynamic role in the context of planned economic development.

The author, after analysing the role of bank credit in a theoretical framework, has undertaken a detailed and thorough study of the main trends in commerical bank credit in India before and after nationalization.

CORPORATE SOUL : Dynamics of Effective Management, by N.K. Singh and Omita Paul, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, 158 pp. Rs. 95



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The book explores an alternative model for rapid development of the corporate sector of a developing country through effective technology. Effective technology will neither be pure high nor 'appropriate' technology but one which coheres with national 'psyche' and is functional.

Based on extensive three-year research studies covering more than one thousand professionals in over 375 government departments, business houses, and academic institutions, the book develops an indigenous approach to effective management. The effective organisations of the future, the authors argue, will be mission-directed, value-oriented and integrated. There are hidden psycho-forces in individual psychology of east, which once related to societal perspectives and will unleash a motivational revolution.

Never before has any book revealed so much which is within us, a primordial urge, at once relevant to today's technology and which binds mankind to its common destiny. The book seeks to answer many questions like : What is culture of contemporary society? How to identify effective organisations'? What makes them effective and how to develop leadership of tomorrow in a fast changing world?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES (With Special Reference to Income Differentials in the ESCAP Region), by Kamal Mathur, Associated Publishing House, New Delhi, 1983, pp. 210, Rs. 95.

A pioneering study in the realm of economic development, the present work evolves a sophisticated method of measuring development disparities among the countries of the world. It is an experimental and innovative attempt at the quantification of growth sources in four developing Asian nations: India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea. The findings of the study will interest not only the inquisitive scholars of development economics but will also assist international economic organizations and policy-makers of the developing countries in reformulating their growth strategies for the greatest welfare of their populations.

BHOPAL : Its Setting, Responsibility and Challenge, by Sidney C. Sufrin, Ajanta Publications, Delhi. 1985, 98pp., Rs. 60.

Bhopal was a shock. The name of the city now stands for the December 3, 1984, accident. Like Watergate, Yalta and Three Mile Island, Bhopal means the beginning of an era limited in this case to the public attitude toward multinational or international business activity. Three Mile Island signalled that nuclear reactors were not as safe as we had assured. Natural fuels are dangerous but not that dangerous. Bhopal signalled that chemical reactions may be dangerous, and when carried out with little regard to safety precautions, they may be lethal.

In this little book, the author, who is an American academician, has tried to understand why what happened did happen. His emphasis is on the cultural and human setting of the accident and on the general direction for protection against such accidents in the future.

The book will direct some of the discussion, already ignited, towards goals the author finds worthwhile. The book is a must for everyone who is interested to know the tragedies of social and moral responsibilities in the business and inside roots of the human disaster.

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Government and Politics

GANDHI AS A SOCIALIST by M.L. Sharma, Foreword by Dr. R.R. Diwakar, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, 1980, 208 pp., Rs. 40

A number of books trying to interpret and present Mahatma Gandhi's life, thought and actions, have been written. This book has tried to portray Gandhi as a socialist. It establishes that Gandhian socialism is unique in many ways. In its broadest sense, its aim is to build a new human community based on the noble instincts of man.

The traditional socialist thought, being deeply rooted in materialism, has failed to interpret the history and evolution of the human race correctly. Man is not merely matter but also spirit. Any theory of social reconstruction would fail if it overstresses the one and ignores the other. To Gandhi belongs the credit of establishing a judicious relationship between the two. The tragedy of Marxian Socialism is that it ignored totally the non-material forces. In Gandhian Socialism the two find their due place.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA : Vol I (The Domestic Scene), P.C. Mathur (ed.), Printwell Publishers, Jaipur, 1985, pp., 420, Rs. 195

Contents of the book:

NATION-BUILDING AND SUB-NATIONALISM: Ethnic Solidarity and Political Sovereignty; Sub-nationalism in South Asia; Economic Roots of Sub-national Conflicts in India.

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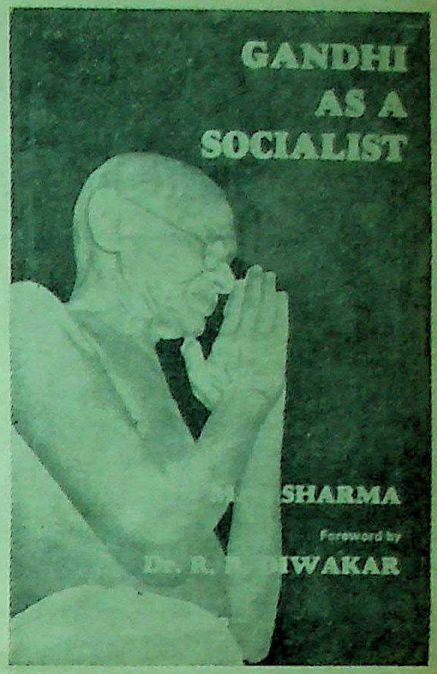
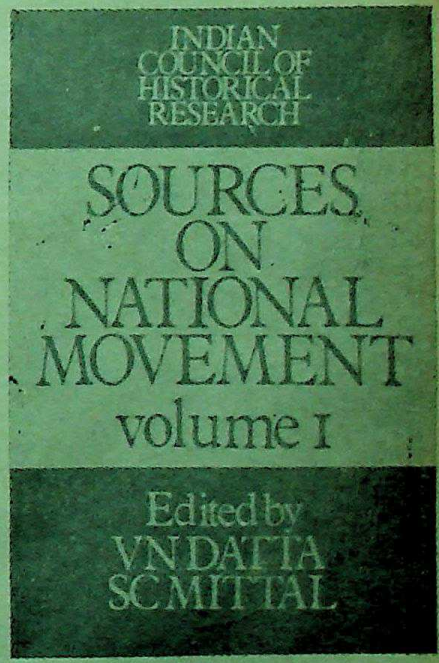


History

INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH : SOURCES ON NATIONAL MOVEMENT, Volume I, edited by V.N. Datta and S.C. Mittal, Allied Publishers, 1985, 314 pp., Rs. 125

This work deals with one of the most significant periods in the evolution of Indian Nationalism, 1919 to September 1920, Within this short period there emerged a highly sensitive, vibrant and vital leadership that struck a new idiom in Indian politics.

The present book, while presenting a large collection of highly valuable source-material of first-rate importance, provides a key to the understanding of official and public mind on the political issues which gripped the country. While the official correspondence highlights the specific orders and policy matters, the private correspondence of Indian leaders illuminates their plans, strategies and mental reservations about the programmes and policies adopted by their contemporaries. This correspondence reflects the dilemmas and predicament in which the officials and political leaders found themselves involved. The documents recreate the times



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when people protested, agitated and defied with a view to gaining their self-respect and political rights from the reluctant British hands.

The volume opens with an introduction by Professor V.N. Datta which is followed by the documents arranged chronologically and thematically with annotations and explantory notes.

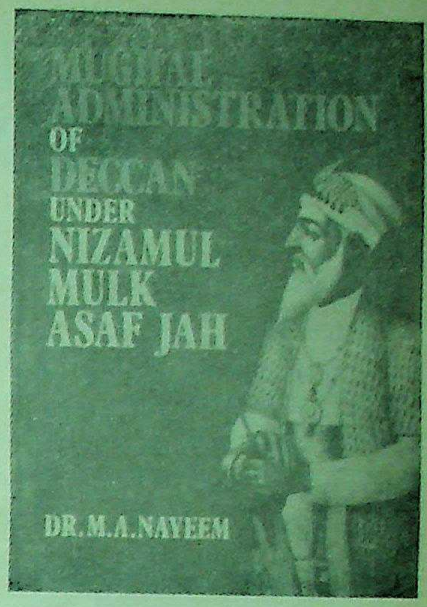
MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH : Politics, Society and Economy, by Fauja Singh & A.C. Arora (eds.), Publication Bureau, Punjabi University, Patiala, 1984, pp. 384, Rs. 40

The establishment of the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Punjab ushered in a new epoch in the history of the region. Under his rule, not only was the unification of Punjab accomplished, but very significant improvements were also witnessed in every branch of administration. The prevailing peace and order in the kingdom, together with the personal efforts of the Maharaja, created a very conducive environment for the development of agriculture, education, literature, fine arts. trade and commerce. Due to the liberal religious policy of the Maharaja, people of all communities—Hindus, Sikhs Muslims and Christians—lived and thrived in an atmosphere of communal harmony and goodwill.

A seminar organised in the Punjabi University in connection with the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in August 1981 focused attention on these historical aspects of the subject. The wide spectrum of the themes covered in the seminar, which are included in this volume, will help the reader understand better the politics, society and economy of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's times.

MUGHAL ADMINISTRATION OF DECCAN UNDER NIZAMUL MULK ASAF JAH, by Dr. M. A. Nayeem, Jaico Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, 336 pp., Rs. 300

Several scholarly works are available on the administration of the Mughal empire in North India but none on that of the Deccan. This book presents a study of the administration of the Mughal Suba of the Deccan and thus fills a lacuna.

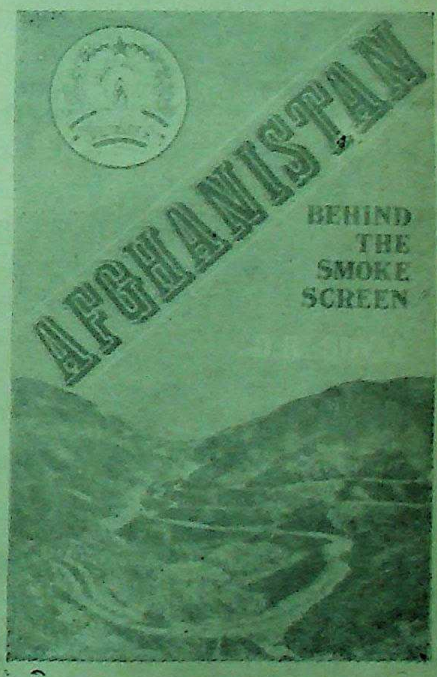


In the process of restoring Mughal authority in the Deccan in the chaotic conditions following Aurangzeb's death, Nizamul Mulk almost created a new administration and gave it a new dimension. It is this modified Mughal administration of the Deccan which has been studied in this work. It begins with a discussion of controversial topics about the status of Nizamul Mulk in the Mughal Empire and the date on which he established his supremacy in the Deccan.

International Affairs

AFGHANISTAN : Behind the Smoke Screen, by D.R. Goyal, Ajanta Publications Delhi, 1984, 314pp., Rs. 150.

Afghanistan leapt into media headlines on April 17, 1978, when the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan overthrew the Daoud regime to usher in Saur Revolution. Ever since it has been the subject of hot discussion all over the world. The controversy took a sharper edge after December 27, 1979, when Babrak Karmal came to the driver's seat of the Revolution. The discussions have been concentrated on the question of the presence of Soviet troops in the country.



The author during his two visits in 1983 felt that there were other aspects of the situation which deserved more attention. From his talks with a wide cross-section of the people he came to the conclusion that the revolutionary government

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A law dictionary on the lines of Stroud's *Judicial Dictionary* or Wharton's *Law Lexicon*, acclaimed as classics in the field covered by them was for long desideratum in India and the author has endeavoured to fill in this need by launching the well-organised and an accurately prepared dictionary now in its second edition which testifies to its growing popularity.

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headed by Karmal had found acceptability with the people at large and the controversy about Soviet troops which raged outside was treated as a spurious issue inside the country.

On the basis of evidence collected from newspaper reports, published books and personal interviews, the author has established that the controversy was a smoke-screen to cover the conspiracy to reverse the course of revolution. He has given a detailed account of how the opponents of Saur Revolution—whose vested interests were hit—were mobilised and equipped by the USA and its allies to instal a pro-West government in Kabul.

The history of Afghanistan, the nature and role of Islam in Afghan society and the country's relations with the outside world have been dealt with in detail to clarify questions about its non-aligned character, the supposed threat to Islam and the Afghan view of the role of the USSR in its history and contemporary development.

HOW MOSCOW SEES KASHMIR, by Hemen Ray, Jaico Publishing House, New Delhi, Rs. 125.

The geographical location of Kashmir has always been a crucial factor in the economic and political importance of the state. The British, recognising its strategic position, maintained a stronghold on it. The partition in 1947 saw Kashmir as the focal point of the Indo-Pakistan conflict.

Moscow's interest in Kashmir dates from the period of Tsarist expansion into Central Asia. It made attempts to break British authority but did not succeed. After World War II, the Soviet Union revived its efforts. Stalin endeavoured to turn Kashmir into an independent Communist state ruled by the Indian Communists. Khrushchev used Kashmir to strengthen the Indo-Soviet relationship. Brezhnev tried to bring about a reconciliation between India and Pakistan under the aegis of the Soviet Union.

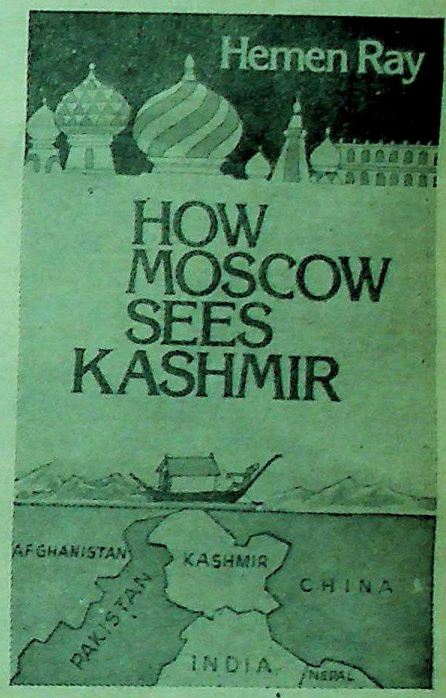
The book provides an objective analysis of the hitherto unknown facts of this period of Indo-Soviet relations. Heman Ray reviews the changes in policy adopted by the Soviet Union towards Kashmir. His study is based on exhaustive research into original Chinese and Russian documents, Security Council records, newspapers and periodicals.

BANDUNG TO TASHKENT : Glimpses of India's Foreign Policy, by C.S. Jha, Sangam Books, Madras, 1983, pp. 361, Rs. 110.

This collection of memoirs of C.S. Jha provides an intimate account of behind-the-scenes activity at the United Nations and highlights the complexity of forces which led to the momentous and epoch-making events of the fifties and sixties.

Having worked in close association with many outstanding statesmen of our time and drawing upon his invaluable experience in the diplomatic service, the author gives not merely a historical account but also an analysis of events, situations, policies and reflections.

While tracing the development of Indian foreign policy under different prime ministers, the author brings into focus the significance of Indian foreign policy in preserving world peace and harmony and easing international tensions and conflicts. The Bandung Conference and the Tashkent Declaration, according to him, are the nodal points of Indian foreign policy during the period following independence.



Law and the Constitution

PRESIDENT AND THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION by Valmiki Choudhary, Allied Publishers, New Delhi, 1985, 380 pp., Rs. 125

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BARABUDUR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION BY. N. J. KROM

IN FIVE VOLUMES

Barabudur, the most magnificent monument in Java, Indonesia, is a colossal structure justly regarded as a veritable wonder by the whole world. This noble architecture, built in the early ninth century A.D., consists of nine gradually receding terraces, three uppermost ones being encircled by rings of stupas, each containing an image of Buddha within a perforated framework. The five lower terraces are encircled by four successive galleries which contain eleven series of sculptured panels depicting the life of the Buddha and other Buddhist stories. The total number of sculptured panels in the galleries is about 1500. Not only this massive grandeur but the fine quality of the immense decorations, extensive relief sculptures, and the numerous images of the Buddha deeply impress any visitor. This combination of massive quantity and fine quality invests Barabudur with a unique character. It has hardly, any parallel in the world, and it may be truly remarked of its artists that 'they conceived like giants and finished like jewellers'.

The life of the Buddha and other Buddhist stories depicted on the sculptures of Barabudur are not the imagination of the artists but based on the tradition of Sarvastivada and Vajrayana schools of Buddhism and are directly related to the ancient texts like Avadanasataka, Jatakamala, Gandavyuhastura, etc.

A complete explanation of all that is depicted in the most splendid creation of Hindu-Javan culture was, therefore, not very easy, though efforts had been made since the beginning of the present century. It was possible thanks to the interest and enthusiasm of the then Government of the Netherlands. A complete series of photographs of the monument were made between 1907 and 1911. Then Koninklijk Institut voor de Taat, Land-en Volkenkunde van Nederlandsch Indie was commissioned to publish the archaeological and architectural descriptions of Barabudur. The result of this project was the publication of a monograph in Dutch, in two volumes, the archaeological part by Nicholas Johannes Krom and the architectural part by T. Van Erp, with 692 plates of photographs in three big folios. The work well represents the massive quantity and fine quality of the subject it deals with.

The author of the archaeological part has recorded all that is known about the significance of Barabudur and what could be gained from the original sources mentioned above.

An English edition of the archaeological part, in very limited copies, was issued, in 1927, in two volumes, which is long out of print.

The present publication is a photographic reproduction of the 1927 English edition in its entirety of the text and the illustrations.

Text : 2 volumes (viii, 478; 365 p) 23 cm x 29 cm.

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detailed written constitution; (b) It provides a complete administrative setup for the Union as well as the States; and (c) It depicts a Union of States.

The Constitution lays down that the President shall have a Council of Ministers to aid and advise him. The position of the President is more or less the same as that of the King of England in constitutional matters, but the position of the Indian President is different from that of the King of England, in that he is an elected person who has to justify his election whereas a hereditary king is there by right of birth. Whatever the strictly correct legal and constitutional position may be, there is no doubt that in the case of an elected President people do look upon him also as a person having some authority in the governance of the country and he can justify his position only by tendering such advice and giving such suggestions as he considers necessary to the Cabinet before it takes any decision. Once a decision has been taken, whether with or without his suggestion or even against his suggestion, he has to act according to that decision. If he does not get an opportunity of influencing the decision beforehand for any reason, the President becomes only an ornamental figurehead without the authority of a hereditary king and a costly nonentity.

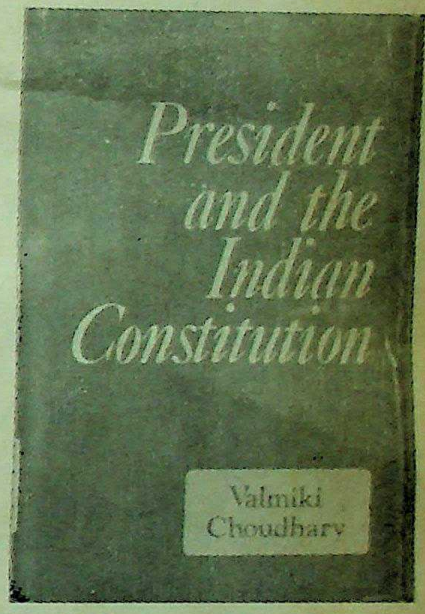
LAW OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (3rd edition, by R.G. Chaturvedi, Law Book Company, Allahabad, 1985, pp., 905, Rs. 225.

This treatise begins with a history of the revolution and evolution of rights, delineating the salient features of the Fundamental Rights, collectively as well as individually, spotlighting the history of the tests so far evolved for judging the validity of laws on the touchstone of Fundamental Rights, and thereafter proceeds to a lucid article-wise commentary on the provisions incorporated in Part III of the Constitution.

Having traced the constitutional history of each article, the text thereof has been updated and thereafter a compendious commentary on each constructively culled out from all judicial decisions reported till December 1982, has been placed into exhaustive Head Notes, meticulously divided, wherever necessary, into their synoptic subheads, covering in chaste, concise and simple expression, the principles available in all those decisions. A note on principles flowing from the decisions taken from January 1983 to July 1984 has been placed in the Addenda so as to make the treatise an up-to-date document on the law of Fundamental Rights.

The right to property having since been removed from the ambit of the Fundamental Rights, a chapter, evaluating the present status of this right has been placed after the chapters devoted to the commentary on Articles 12 to 35-A in their application to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The treatise ends with a chapter on the emergent concept of Public Interest Litigation.



TAXATION AND FISCAL ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA, by O.N. Tripathi, Upper India Publishing House, Lucknow, 1985, pp., 152+ xii, Rs. 75.

This work is an attempt to set forth, within the framework of available data, a complete historical account of taxation together with financial administration in ancient India starting from Vedic times to the end of the Mauryan era. The early texts—both religious and secular—in Sanskrit and Pali have been critically examined from the point of view of obtaining data relating to this subject. The conclusions drawn should prove of great interest to tax planners, administrators and historians alike.

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Library Science

PUBLIC LIBRARY OPERATIONS AND SERVICES: A Short Manual (third edition), by C.G. Viswanathan, Print House, Lucknow, 1985, pp. 232, Rs. 175.

This is a brief manual to help both the performer and the user of library and information services. The need for efficient management of public libraries and information centres has attained urgency and indispensability as the frontiers of knowledge have been expanding during the last few years, specially in the disciplines of science and technology.

Despite limitation of space, an attempt has been made in the book to cover all aspects of library services. Illustrations, diagrams and tables elucidate the text. There are nineteen chapters, of which chapters two and nineteen relate to 'application of management theory to library operations' and 'advent of machines for library operations'.

Life Sciences

PERSPECTIVES IN PRIMATE BIOLOGY, By P.K. Seth (ed.), Today & Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi, 1983, 242 pp., Rs. 345

This is a comprehensive volume containing original papers on primate biology, exploring in depth some of the crucial issues emerging in the field. It focusses attention on the biological, social and ecological determinants that contribute to primate biology. Written by experts on various aspects of primatology, it is an indispensable treatise on primates and is also an appropriate reference source for experienced professionals and students.

The volume concentrates on communication patterns in the non-human primates as they occur in different environments. It provides specific data on eco-management and conservation of the free-ranging monkeys vis-a-vis correlates in their behaviour and social development. Among the topics discussed and illustrated are various aspects of evolution. Conservation of genetic material, reproductive behaviour, infanticide and cannibalism and conservation strategies.

BIOLOGICAL MACRO-MOLECULES : STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION; Proceedings of Indo-Soviet Binational Symposium, Edited by C. Rajamanickam and Vadim T. Invanov, Today and Tomorrow's Printers & Publishers, 1985, pp., 211, Rs. 395

The Indo-Soviet Binational Symposium on Biological Macro-Molecules: Structure & Function, jointly sponsored by Indian National Science Academy and USSR Academy of Sciences, held at the Madurai Kamraj University, was attended by outstanding specialists in the disciplines of biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology, areas of interface between physical, chemical and biological sciences, both from India and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has an established research programme in these frontier areas of life sciences where significant advances have been made. Recently, India was selected for establishing an International Biotechnology Institute by FAO. The proceedings of the symposium give a clear index of the significant achievements in the sphere of biological macro-molecules.

PROGRESS IN MICROBIAL ECOLOGY, by Prof. J.N. Rai *Festschrift* (edited by K.G. Mukerji, V.P. Agnihotri, R.P. Singh), Print House, Lucknow, 1984, pp., 653.

This *Festschrift* is a humble dedication of contributors and fellow plant pathologists and microbiologists to Professor J.N. Rai for his outstanding researches in the field of Mycology, Plant Pathology and Microbiology on the eve of his superannuation (60 years on July,

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(The volume incorporates critical reviews on various aspects of the ecology of important plant pathogens like Fusarium, Phytopthora, Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Sclerotium, Sclerotinia, bacteria and nematodes as also those of rusts and powdery mildews; fungi present in unusual habitats like Usar and mangrove soils, polluted waters and soils amended with organic and inorganic substances including fung-toxicants; fungi present in spermosphere, rhizosphere, and phyllosphere. Ecology and distribution of pathogenic fungi, myxomyetes and mycorrhizae have also been reviewed.

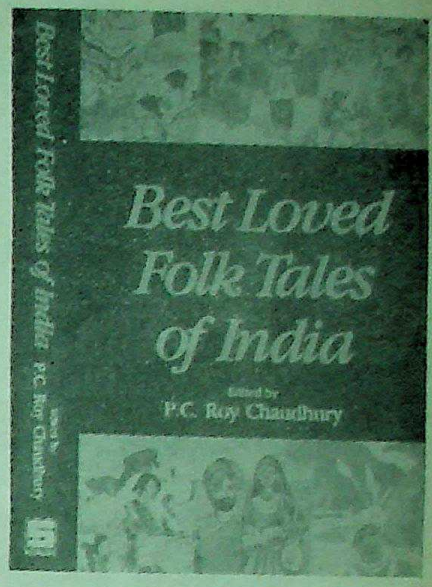
Literature and Folk Tales

BEST LOVED FOLK TALES OF INDIA, by P.C. Roy Chaudhury, (ed.) Sterling, New Delhi, 1985, pp., 390, Rs. 200

India is a treasure trove of folk tales born out of the folklore and customs of the country. Sometimes the same tales are retold in different regions, of course, imparting the local flavour to them. The mobility of the folk tales can be attributed to the pilgrims and travellers moving from one part of the country to another. More often than not the folk tales are passed on from the grandmother's lap to the grandchildren so vividly that they are impressed in the child's memory for ever.

These folk tales are delightful and fascinating to the young as well as the old and the listeners are kept enthralled by the story teller. The same story heard repeatedly does not lose its interest as it caters to the fantasies, the make-believe and the primitiveness in us giving inexplicable joy.

These beautiful folk tales of India were on the verge of extinction when a project of compilation of 21 volumes, consisting of the folk tales of different regions was launched. India, a vast mosaic of various hues of religions, customs, beliefs, dialects and cultures, is reflected in the tales. The best loved folk tales have been gleaned from the larger collection, thereby presenting a miniature India.



FOLKLORE OF NEPAL, By Man Mohan Sharma, Vision Books, New Delhi, 1982, 216 pp., Rs. 80.

This work presents English translations of some 70 selected folk tales and legends and 25 folk songs from the oral tradition in various Nepalese dialects. The folk tales and legends cover a large range of subjects from the supernatural to common household customs, including legendary princes and princesses, fate and portents, nature beings (demons etc.,), magic, family relationships, old customs, etc. In the end, the author has included a chapter on common Nepalese proverbs and idioms to acquaint the reader more fully with traditional thought patterns and expressions. Thus the subject matter will provide the reader with an insight into the beliefs, aspirations, norms and values of common Nepalese folk.

The book also contains an introduction to Nepal, its physical features, people and geopolitical importance.

LITERATURE AND SOCIETY : Selected Essays, by P.C. Gupta, People's Publishing House, New Delhi, 1983, pp., 244, Rs. 50

Gupta's major precoccupation in all these essays has been a consistent study of literature from the angle of the working people. He had been well versed in Marxist literary criticism since his student days. Ralph Fox, Christopher Caudwell and similar other Marxist literary theorist critics peep through the essays. Like these critics, Gupta was also endeavouring to formulate laws of aesthetics and of literature from the Marxist standpoint. From the Indian theory of the Rasas to the twentieth century short-lived literary aberrations like

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surrealism or cubism literary-aesthetic theories are examined with balance and historical perspective.

One can dispute some of Gupta's formulations, and cavil about some of his judgements. One can even say that no literary-aesthetic theory or laws emerge from his essays. But the fault cannot be blamed on Gupta. He was in the process of development and he died before he could reach maturity of judgement and attain the required proficiency in the application of Marxism to writers and their works or to literature in general. Moreover, there has not been much literary Marxist critical activity in our own country. This feature retards the development and maturity of individuals aspiring, as Gupta did, for maturity in Marxist literary-aesthetic theory.

THE MAHABHARATA; A Literary Study, by Krishna Chaitanya, Clarion Books, New Delhi, 1985, pp., Rs. 175

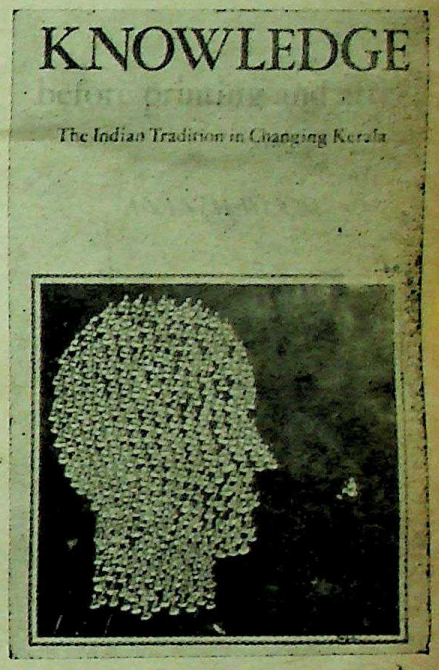
The Mahabharata is the greatest epic poem in the world, being eight times as long as the Iliad and Odyssey put together and three and a half times the Bible. Revered as a religious text by the people of India, it has been recognised by people all over the world to be a classic of world literature, too. Though studies of some facets of the work are available, there has so far been no comprehensive and detailed literary study of the work. This is being offered for the first time in this work.

The *Gita*, which is a part of the epic, has been extensively studied and in many languages, but as a detached text. The author shows that the *Gita* cannot be isolated from its embedding in the epic and has analysed its message in detail, the space devoted to this being as extensive as in most of the books on the *Gita* that have been published. There is also an outline summary of the epic as well as an analysis of the major characters and crucial episodes.

A dedicated work by a writer who is the author of a five-volume philosophy of freedom and a ten-volume history of world literature, its analysis of the philosophy of the epicis against the background of the major currents of world philosophy, old and new, eastern and western, and the literary evaluation matches the highest standards of criticism anywhere in the contemporary world.

Mass Media

KNOWLEDGE BEFORE PRINTING AND AFTER : The Indian Tradition in Changing Kerala, by Ananda E. Wood, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1985, 199 pp., Rs. 120



Apart from the introduction of printing, newer communications systems revolutionized the organization of knowledge and enabled it to be expressed with an open flexibility that has transformed modern capabilities and attitudes. Today, information and education are able to spread much more widely than ever before, thus fostering the growth of democratic attitudes; and modern communications have opened up far more extensive contacts between people than was possible in traditional civilizations that had not developed the use of printing. In particular, modern physical science and technology have advanced spectacularly through improved recording, transmission and co-ordination of information by sophisticated communications media.

What then do we have to learn from traditional civilizations like that of India, which have only recently begun to use modern communications and to express themselves in modern terms? This book tries to answer the question by providing a degree of historical perspective to the process of modernization. In discussing this question, Dr Wood describes traditional systems of passing on knowledge through direct personal contact

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BEHIND THE BY-LINE: A Journalist's Memoirs, by M.V. Kamath, Vision Books, New Delhi, 1985, pp., 268, Rs. 100

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INTO THE NEWSROOM : An Introduction to Journalism, by Leonard Ray Teel and Ron Taylor, Prentice Hall of India, 1985, pp. 192, Rs. 35

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TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS OF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES, by Major General Chand N. Das (Retd.), Vision Books, New Delhi, 1984, 518 pp., Rs. 350

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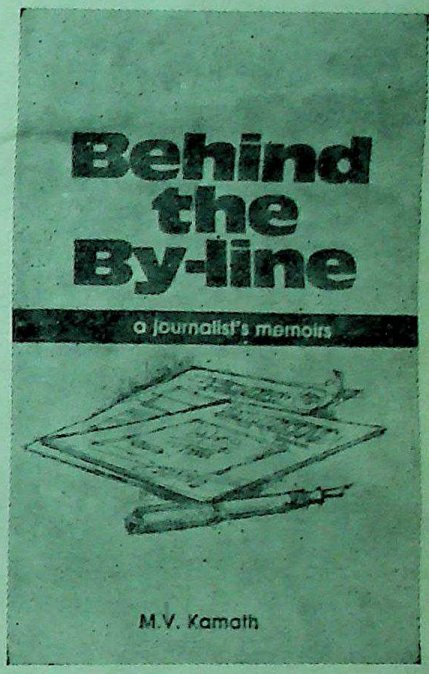

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COMPETITION SUCCESS REVIEW YEAR BOOK 1985, edited by S.K. Sachdeva, Competition, Review Pvt Ltd., New Delhi, pp. 928 Rs. 40.

A reference work for candidates appearing for competitive examinations. The contents are divided into six parts : Current Affairs, Topics of the Year, Fundamentals, India and the World, Year at a Glance, and Who's Who. There are also five illustrated features, and an exhaustive index.

Religion and Philosophy

COMPARATIVE RELIGION : Concepts & Experience, by Rajendra Verma, Intellectual Publishing House, New Delhi, 1984, pp. 165, Rs. 80

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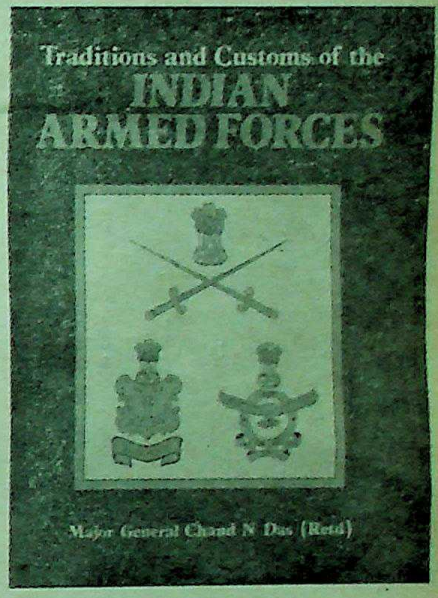

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN INDIA : A Historical and Constitutional Study, by Dhirendra K. Srivastava, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, 1982, 339 pp., Rs. 100

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India during the medieval period was far more enlightened than Muslim rule elsewhere. With the establishment of British rule, India came in contact with secular ideas and thoughts of the West. After independence, the Indian Constitution, passed in 1950, guarantees to every person, subject to necessary limitations, the right to profess, practise and propagate religion.

Against this rich and varied historical and political background, the author in this inter-cultural and inter-disciplinary study, examines and analyses the various faces of the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom in India. Some important questions like those of state neutrality, restrictions on personal laws and banning of cow slaughter have been critically examined in their historical and constitutional perspectives.

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SIKH CONCEPT OF THE DIVINE, by Pritam Singh (ed.), Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 1985, 223 pp., Rs. 60 (de luxe) Rs. 48 (Paperback).

All religions are unanimous that the Ultimate Reality is unfathomable. In the Sacred Book of the Sikhs, Guru Granth Sahib, one may come across any number of divine attributes, but those which must have struck the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, as the most prominent and essential ones were woven by him into a short rhythmic composition, called the Mul Mantra, the seminal formula consisting of 14 basic structural units.

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SECULARIZATION IN MULTI-RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES, by S.C. Dube & V.N. Basilov (eds.), Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, pp. 322, Rs. 80

The Soviet Union and India are both multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-religious societies. Their experiences in matters of cultural autonomy, religious freedom and national integration have many parallels, but also many significant differences.

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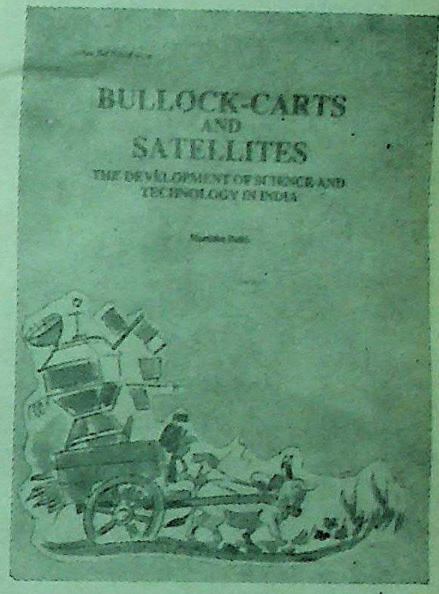

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On 18 May 1974 India exploded a nuclear device. It literally shook a world fed on stories of a superstition-ridden country, backward and poor. India's achievements were believed to be confined to culture, religious philosophies and architectural wonders; scientific and technological development were not usually associated with the country. However, this stereotype image did not tally with the reality of modern India.

The image of India as a scientifically backward country came about in the last few centuries when there was a change in the conditions that had nurtured the spirit of scientific enquiry that existed in ancient and medieval India. This happened for very specific reasons.

The chaos that resulted from the disintegration of the Mughal empire was a deterrent to research and technological progress and the two centuries of British rule that followed did little to foster the modernization of the Indian industry. And so it was that in the last couple of centuries, India's past scientific contributions and achievements tended to be overlooked, and its future technological potential not recognized.

This technological and scientific potential came into its own after India became independent in 1947. Since then, there has been substantial growth in areas as varied as agriculture and electronics, medicine and physics, in fields and laboratories across the nation. This scientific progress has not arisen out of a void. It is the logical result of India's history of technological discovery and innovation.

FRONTIERS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY : A Selected Outlook, National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine (USA), Prentice-Hall of India, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 227, Rs. 35

This volume is the projection of the growth and direction of science and technology for a five-year period. Specifically, such outlooks identify national problems to which science and technology pertain, and also outline opportunities and constraints in their use. The report deals with eight growth points of American science and technology and draws "more fully the relation of science and technology to the very large and kaleidoscopic agenda with which the nation must deal". These points are covered in separate chapters that span from genetics to robotics.

Contents: (1) The Genetic Program of Complex Organisms; (2) The Molecular and Genetic Technology of Plants; (3) Cell Receptors for Hormones and Neurotransmitters; (4) Psychobiology; (5) Surface Science and its Applications; (6) Turbulence in Fluids; (7) Lasers; (8) The Next Generation of Robots.

USSR-INDIA : THE PATH TO STARS, Edited by Valdimir Shatalov, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, 188 pp., Rs. 150

This book is about the joint efforts of the USSR and India in conquering outer space and about friendship between these two great nations. The Indian experience vividly testifies to the fact that its space endeavour is the logical result of its having opted for the road of peaceful development for the good of its people.

The implementation of the planned programme of joint scientific research in outer space by the two countries is intended to accelerate the broad cooperation between the USSR and India and unite the efforts of both countries in conquering new frontiers of science.

A fascinating chronicle of the historic Soyuz T-11 space flight, the book will be of immense value to space scientists, students of Astronomy and Cosmology as well as the enlightened readers. The book opens new vistas to the knowledge of space explorations.

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WORKSHOP CALCULATION AND SCIENCE, Vol. I&II, by P.M. Sankara Subbiah, Muthu Publications, Palayam Kottai, 1985, pp. 138, Rs. 16

FITTING TOOLS AND PRACTICE, Vol. I&II, by P.M. Sankara Subbiah, Muthu Publications, Kottai, 1985, pp. 146, Rs. 16

Both these books are intended to help trainees in industrial training institutes. The subject matters are illustrated with graded problems. The language used is simple.

Sociology

THE HERITAGE OF THE SIKHS, by Harbans Singh, Manohar Publications, New Delhi, 1985, 398 pp. Rs. 150

Odd as it may sound, the Sikhs—a unique religious community in the world—have, by and large, remained unsung. The epic story of this dynamic community has lain buried in private and public archives for a long time. Of late, however, scholars, historians and writers have increasingly turned to the rich ores of Sikh civilization and quarried significant patterns and *leitmotifs* which define the existence of this community. *The Heritage of the Sikhs* is among the most distinguished in the line.

The author has brought to bear upon the subject a sophisticated mind and a prismatic imagination.

It is a measure of his perception that he has intuitively seized upon that miraculous paradox of Sikhism : its affirmation of opposites. For the Sikhs are at once an extrovert and introvert people, given as much to the plough as to the sword, the rosary and the hymn. Their view of life comprehends both the body's raptures and the soul's ecstasies and agonies.

pRIBES OF ARUNACHAL RADESH by P. Thankappan Nair, Spectrum Publications, Guwahati, 1985, 325 pp., Rs. 165

Arunachal Pradesh, unlike other parts of India, is inhabited by tribal people of an almost uniform standard. The under-administration of this north-east frontier territory before independence has left the tribesmen to their own lot, thus preserving their rich cultural heritage in its pristine purity. Little attempt has been made to study these interesting tribesmen.

The book is calculated to serve as a primer of the people of our north-eastern frontier. An attempt has been made to give an overall view of their life with special reference to their youth dormitories, marriage customs, slavery, and primitive weapons and warfare, which are fast disappearing.

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE KHASI PEOPLE, by Hamlet Bareh, Spectrum Publications, Guwahati, 1985, pp., 526, Rs. 220

Considered to be the first of its kind on the subject, the book contains a detailed treatment of many basic subjects of ethnography, culture, politics and history. Emphasis has been laid on the evolution of Khasi society. The matrilineal form of organisation, its megalithic and religious aspects are reviewed in the light of their chronological history and the nature of their civil institutions. The main purpose of the work is, therefore, to present sources of information.

The book covers the period up to the formation of Meghalaya.

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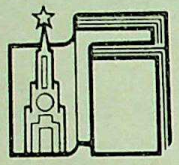

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Welcome to Moscow!

The Fifth Moscow International Book Fair will be held in September this year. More than 2,000 book firms and organizations have already made known their desire to participate in it. The interest shown in the Moscow forum by foreign firms, which have found an excellent market here for their products, is quite natural. At the same time, there is mounting interest in Soviet literature among readers abroad, which is shared by publishers and book dealers.

As one of the world's leading book publishing countries, the Soviet Union is in a position to offer the widest possible variety of books for sale and reprint in other countries. The USSR currently accounts for one in every six books being printed in the world. Altogether more than 80,000 titles of books and brochures are put out annually in this country, with a total printing of 2,000 million copies. In the USSR, books are published in the 89 languages spoken in the country and in 61 foreign languages. An annual average of 2,000 titles by authors from more than 100 countries are published here, totalling upwards of 160 million copies. This exceeds Great Britain by five to one, and is double the amount produced in the United States, France or Japan.

Preparations for the 5th Moscow Book Fair are in full swing. Its Organizing Committee is headed by Boris Pastukhov, Chairman of the Goskomizdat. Other sponsors include, as before, the Copyright Agency of the USSR (VAAP) and the all-Union association, Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga. Other agencies, as well as public organizations and Soviet writers' and other similar unions, are also involved in the preparations for the 1985 Moscow International Book Fair.

Igor Kazansky
General Director of the Moscow International Book Fair

The Fair will take place on September 10-16 in the grounds of the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements, where it has been allotted an area of more than 25,000 square metres. As before, the Soviet display will consist of books, music, geographical maps and atlases, picture postcards, reproductions, stamps, slides and records offered for sale and/or cession of rights.

In 1985 the Moscow Book Fair will comprise two international expositions under the mottoes of "Books in the Peoples' Fight Against the Menace of Nuclear War" and "Books and Youth". As always, the Business Meeting Club will be holding its sessions during the Fair. This time, the topics of discussion will be "Forty Years Without World Wars. The Lessons of History and Books" and "The Problems of Youth in Contemporary Literature". Besides book publishers and distributors, invitations to attend the Club meetings will be extended to prominent public figures, scientists, writers, veterans of World War II.

The magazine *Sovetskaya Zhenshchina*, and the General Director's Office have already announced the traditional international children's drawing competition, to be conducted under the motto "I Am Drawing My Dream". The best pictures are to be put on display at the Fair, as usual, and the winners will be invited to come to Moscow.

One novel feature of this Fair will be the organization of days specially devoted to Union Republics, arranged in response to the ever greater interest shown by foreign firms in publications reflecting the social and cultural advances achieved by the peoples of our multinational country.

The Fair's programme of meetings, visits, and sight-seeing tours is going to be as extensive and varied as ever, including meetings at publishing houses, writers', composers', artists' and other associations and at scientific and cultural centres, as well as theatre performances, concerts, and so on.

The regular Moscow international book forum is not far off, and it is our pleasure and privilege today to say to the many book-lovers, "Welcome to Moscow!"

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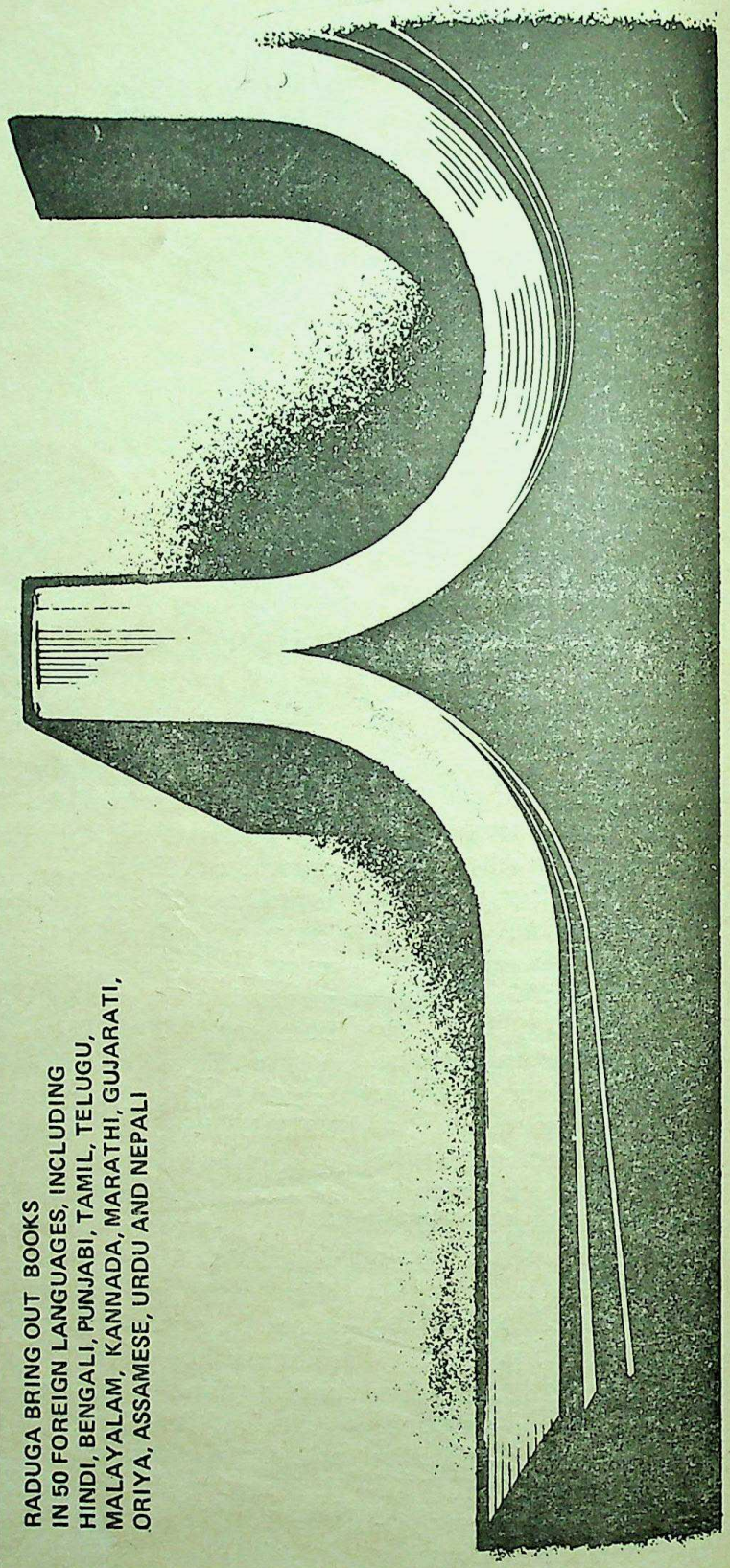

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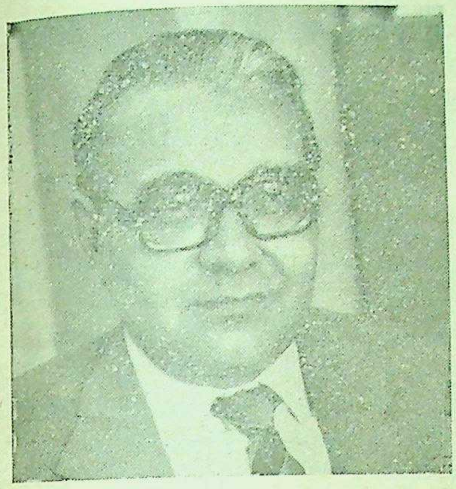

Yuri Leonov

Boris Pastukhov

Konstantin Dolgov

From Heart to Heart

BORIS PASTUKHOV, Chairman of the State Committee for Publishing, Printing, the Book Trade; KONSTANTIN DOLGOV, Chairman of the VAAP Board; and YURI LEONOV, General Director of the foreign trade association Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga, held a round-table discussion on the place of cultural cooperation in the life of the world community, the role of book exchange for bringing nations closer together, and the importance of Moscow International Book Fairs.

Boris PASTUKHOV : Cultural exchange. These two very familiar words encompass multiple aspects of people's activities today. Among them are exhibitions, guest tours, competitions, festivals, creative contacts between scientists,writers and workers in the various fields of arts, all in all constituting a priceless contribution to mutual cultural enrichment of the nations living together on our planet, to the cause of international understanding and trust. This is the one and only road that leads towards man's age-long dream—a stable peace on earth, freed of wars and weapons.

Our country, following the precepts of its founder—Lenin—to assimilate and digest all that has been valuable in the more than two thousand years of development of human thought and culture has been working indefatigably to expand and deepen the beneficent process of exchange in spiritual values. The most eloquent testimony to this are the figures pertaining to publications of books and brochures by foreign authors in the USSR.

Since the Revolution of 1917, works of foreign fiction have come out in the Soviet Union in 39,726 editions, the total printing approaching 2.4 thousand million copies. These works were published in 96 languages spoken in the USSR, and also in the original; in 1983 alone there were publications in 25 languages of the peoples of the USSR and in six foreign languages.

In one year, we publish more than 80,000 titles of books and brochures in 89 languages of our multinational country and in 73 foreign languages. The total annual printing reaches 2,000 million copies. More than 200 publishing houses of the Soviet Union produce books in all fields of science, culture and art.

Konstantin DOLGOV : Ignorance, which breeds distrust and suspicion, is the principal cause of alienation. That was why fascism, the acme of obscurantism and hatred, always marked its ascent to power by consigning to the fire the works of mankind's greatest humanists.

People have always striven to live in a community, for pain is less agonising when it is shared by friends, while joy multiplies when your friends rejoice with you. The most formidable work yields to a common effort. And there is so much work still facing mankind. Can we stand for children starving to death in our space age? Is it feasible that some members of humanity who have learnt to build skyscrapers still dwell in shacks and

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even caves? And how many homeless people there are! And the illiterate! Nor do I only refer to the developing countries, which have been plundered by the colonialists and have to make up for lost time. Poverty is also a permanent feature of countries which like to call themselves advanced. A great deal to relieve it could be done even today, if those who have been promoting the arms race, the development of ever more lethal weapons to maintain the "balance of fear", would agree to work together to achieve a balance of trust, to solve problems which require joint efforts on a global scale.

No, I have not been digressing: international book exchange offers numerous examples of cooperation among countries with different social systems. This applies both to works of fiction, which give an artistic embodiment of the nations' historical experience, and to specialised literature, which tells about the achievements of modern socio-political and scientific thought in the precise language of facts, documents, formulas and definitions. This literature finds a broad readership abroad. The fundamental transformations worked in our country in accordance with the ideals of great socialist thinkers are followed with close interest abroad, and publications of works by leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet state are in great demand. Works by Konstantin Chernenko, General Secretary of the CC CPSU, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, have been brought out in large editions in the countries of the socialist community, in Western Europe, in both Americas, and elsewhere in the world.

The demand for informative literature has been growing steadily : in the last decade alone the Copyright Agency of the USSR concluded more than 10,000 contracts for export and import of works on political, social and economic problems. Every year, through the mediation of the Agency, up to 400 books by foreign scientists are translated and published in the Soviet Union, while foreign publishers purchase licences for approximately 600 works by Soviet scientists annually.

As for "imaginative writing", since the USSR joined the Geneva Copyright Convention in 1973, VAAP has concluded more than 9,000 export-import contracts for the publication of nearly 21.5 thousand works of fiction and art. In recent years alone readers in the West have been given an opportunity to acquaint themselves with nearly 5,000 books by Soviet writers, who aim to project a truthful image of the hero of our time, a person who devotes his creative talent to the achievement of a happy future for mankind.

As for Soviet publications of works by foreign authors, *The Library of World Literature*, *The 20th-Century Foreign Novel*, *Contemporary Short Story*, *The 20th-Century Oriental Poetry*, *Library of Selected Works of Afro-Asian Writers*—this is a far from complete list of serial publications that have been going on for years and which enjoy tremendous popularity with Soviet readers.

Yuri LEONOV : It would be opportune at this point to recall the words of H.G. Wells, who visited our country in 1920, a grim year,when economic dislocation caused by the Civil War was at its height. He was amazed to find that a literary undertaking of unprecedented scope had been launched in the warring and hunger-stricken Russia, an undertaking that was unthinkable in rich England and rich America. In the starving Russia, he was staggered to discover hundreds of people working on translations; their translations were being published to provide new Russia with a knowledge of world culture that was not accessible to any other nation.

Life has borne out the forecast of the great fantast and an objective realist. The Soviet people have carried out an unprecedented cultural revolution and, true to the behest of the great Lenin, are carefully preserving and developing their own rich cultural traditions and constantly enriching them with all that is most worthwhile in the national cultures of other peoples.

Every year, Soviet publishing houses bring out, in translation into Russian and the languages of the other nationalities of the USSR, works of over 2,000 foreign authors in a total printing of some 150 million copies. More than 200 specialised shops in our country sell books, art albums and works of pictorial arts both from the socialist countries and from the West. In the United States we annually buy licences for up to 15,000 titles of books on the broadest imaginable range of subjects.

We could expect, it would seem, a lively opposite traffic along the street of international book exchange. Unfortunately, I have to state that our book imports from the countries of the West exceed our exports by some 50 to 100 per cent. And for some countries this disproportion is even more striking. Nor does this situation reflect the potential requirements of the book market in the countries of the West. But the uniformly great interest evinced there in Soviet literature and art is foiled, if we return to the traffic metaphor, by numerous "no thoroughway" signs that are put up with particular zeal by the proponents of "free contacts" between cultures.

I wouldn't like to paint too black a picture : we have numerous business associates abroad, who take a sober view of the real situation. The annual sales promoted by the Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga amount to nearly 150 million rubles. And every year we gain some 25 to 30 new clients abroad. As for us, we welcome broader ties and are ever prepared to expand our business contacts on the principles of mutual respect and equality,

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for we know that by selling books we contribute to peace and progress.

Boris PASTUKHOV : It is obvious that despite the spectacular development of the mass media, the book, as a source of knowledge about the external world and man's inner self, will always retain its primary role in man's spiritual life. International book exchange is called upon to bring the people closer together, to consolidate peace and international security.

The scope of cooperation in this field has particularly grown after the Helsinki Conference, which highlighted exchange in intellectual treasures as a potent instrument for promoting mutual understanding and trust. Let me quote a few more figures. In the ten years which have passed since the Helsinki Conference, we have brought out 17,249 editions of books and brochures by foreign authors in the total printing of 1,126,637,000 copies. The printings of US authors amounted, within this period, to over 152 million copies, French authors—242 million copies, British authors—over 168 million copies, and authors from Federal Germany—133 million copies.

An important contribution to the development of the cultural exchange between European countries in the spirit of the Helsinki agreements was the publication of the international series, *European Poetry*. We have also brought out bilingual anthologies of 20th-century poetry of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

And, finally, it is most significant that only a month after the signing in Helsinki of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Soviet capital welcomed exhibitors and guests to an international book exhibition under the motto "Books for Peace and Progress".

This motto was borrowed by the subsequent Moscow Book Fairs, the first of which was held in 1977. Perhaps we had not enough experience in organising forums on this scale, but we were sincerely eager to provide foreign publishers and book-sellers who came to Moscow with the most favourable conditions for business and creative contacts. Our business associates appreciated this, as well as the vast commercial potential of the fair : after all, according to the UNESCO data, the Soviet Union holds the leading place in the amount of translations published.

We had plenty of worthwhile books to offer the participants in Moscow Fairs. And the interest of the Soviet reading public in the work of writers abroad and the steady demand for their books are only too well known. That is why, I believe, the motto of Moscow Book Fairs has received broad recognition, and the fairs themselves have now become traditional and are enjoying high international prestige.

Konstantin DOLGOV : This is borne out by statistical data pertaining to the short but dynamic biography of Moscow Book Fairs. The first was attended by 1,535 firms from 67 countries and three international organisations. Six years later, the Fourth Moscow Book Fair was attended by 2,643 firms from 94 countries and 16 international organisations. This growth, I've been told by our foreign colleagues, is largely due to the favourable atmosphere at the fairs, opportunities for a free exchange of opinions and absence of any discrimination on political grounds. All this is conductive to lively business.

The last fair, incidentally, produced record results : with direct participation of the VAAP, 2,500 export-import contracts covering 3,500 books were signed. I am sure that Mr Leonov is in a position to cite no less impressive figures.

Yuri LEONOV : The total sum of contracts and agreements concluded by Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga with the participants of the latest Moscow Book Fair topped a hundred million rubles. This is a very satisfactory result. But I must emphasise another aspect of Moscow Book Fairs. They are not exclusively, and not even primarily, concerned with the sale of books and licences. In their festive atmosphere and democratic spirit, they represent a Festival of the Book. Many guests have commented that hospitable Moscow attracts people with the festive atmosphere of free trade and social intercourse, a chance to meet old friends and to make new ones. I hope that it is in this mood that participants and guests of the Fifth Book Fair are making ready to travel to Moscow in the autumn of this year.

Boris PASTUKHOV : And this lays a great responsibility on us, the organisers. I can promise our guests traditional Moscow hospitality and a broad and varied cultural programme.

On behalf of the organisers, the State Committee for Publishing, Printing and the Book Trade, the Copyright Agency of the USSR and Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga, I'd like to express my hope that the current book festival in Moscow will make new sizable contributions to the expansion of cultural coopertion among nations for the sake of stable peace, in the name of the ideals of freedom and progress.

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Commemorating 40th Anniversary of V-Day

The further May 9, 1945, recedes into history, the more profoundly impressive becomes the victory achieved by the Soviet people. It is celebrated in books, articles, works of art, documentaries and feature films. In 1983, the anniversary was marked by no less than 84 publications; 208 were printed in 1984 and 254 books are due to be released in 1985. They run into a total of 33 million copies and include learned papers, popular books, documents, reference material and fiction, 546 titles in all.

Of most interest to the reading public are books of memoirs by such outstanding military commanders as Georgy Zhukov, Alexander Vasilevsky, Ivan Konev, Konstantin Rokossovsky, Ivan Bagramyan and Vasily Chuikov.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Alexander Vasilevsky dedicated his whole life to the service of his homeland. This is what his book is all about. It is filled with reminiscences about the war and work of the High Command General Headquarters and General Staff of the Soviet Army. Marshal Vasilevsky reserves his gratitude for the people who were instrumental in moulding him as a soldier and a commander—Mikhail Tukhachevsky, Boris Shaposhnikov, Mikhail Frunze, Kliment Voroshilov and other prominent generals. Called *Lifelong Cause*, the book has been reprinted five times, which is convincing evidence of the unabated public interest in books of this kind and in the personalities responsible for the victorious advance of the Soviet Army.

Books of the *War Memoirs* series are issued by Voyenizdat Publishers. Reminiscences of world-known Soviet military commanders will be translated into European languages, as well as into Vietnamese, Bengali and other languages.

The success of the memoirs can be ascribed to the heightened public interest in documentary books. Today's readers want to analyse, make comparisons and reach their own conclusions. They are certain to be attracted by the books issued by Politizdat Publishers: *Soviet-U.S. Relations During the Great Patriotic War : 1941—1945*, *Soviet-French Relations During the Great Patriotic War: 1941—1945*, *Soviet-British Relations During the Great Patriotic War; 1941-1945*. These two-volume editions provide an insight into international, political, diplomatic, and military developments and into the USSR's relations with the nations of the anti-Nazi coalition.

The Great Patriotic War sets out to give exhaustive information about the war. This encyclopaedia is printed by the Sovetskaya Entsiklopedia Publishers. In addition, Politizdat is at work on a glossary/handbook on World War II.

Yuridicheskaya Literatura Publishers have drawn upon the Nuremburg Trials files to produce a new book, *No Statutes of Limitations, No Oblivion*, an account of the heinous atrocities perpetrated by the Nazi invaders against the peoples of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland and other European countries as well as of crimes committed by Hitler and his clique against the German nation during World War II.

The book is an appeal for vigilance and for an intensified fight against imperialism, neo-Nazism, racism and any new Napoleons seeking world domination.

The Great Patriotic War is the subject of numerous learned papers. The defence of Odessa lasted 73 days before the city was overrun by the Germans. It took them 250 days of bloody fighting to take Sevastopol and the enemy's siege of Leningrad dragged on for 900 days and nights. The German offensive to seize Moscow, launched in early September 1941 and involving a huge mass of troops, was gaining momentum until early December, only to suffer a major setback, the first since the outbreak of the war.

What is the source of the Soviet people's incredible strength and their victory over fascism? The answer is provided in monographs on the Great Patriotic War in which is postulated the inevitability of the Soviet victory. The 27 volumes will have an estimated print run of 1.2 million crowning the years-long war studies by Soviet scholars. *The Second World War : A Concise History*, put out by Nauka Publishers, is a major work and a joint effort by scholars from the socialist countries.

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The war is also dealt with at length in such books as *A Critique of Major Concepts of Bourgeois Historiography of World War Two*, *The Second World War: Outcome and Lessons*, *The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union : 1941—1945. A Concise History* by Voyenizdat Publishers and the three-volume *Soviet Ukraine During the Great Patriotic War : 1941—1945* by Naukova Dumka Publishers.

Victory was forged not only on the battle-fields, but also in the rear, at plants, factories, collective farms and in the cornfields. Many partisan detachments also contributed to the defeat of the enemy. Books intended for the general public describe the selfless efforts of the Soviet people on the battle-field and on the home front, the contribution made by women and young people, and the Heroic Cities of Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Novorosisk and Sevastopol. It is planned to publish 87 books in editions totalling over three million copies.

The Great Patriotic War claimed the lives of 20 million Soviet people. The memory is still painful and this is the reason why books about the war are a staple of modern Soviet literature. 40-odd books of fiction will be put out by Sovetsky Pisatel Publishers. Among the authors are Mikhail Sholokhov, Alexander Chakovsky, Ivan Stadnyuk, Yury Bondarev, Georgy Markov and others.

Special series of books dealing with various subjects are now being prepared by Khudozhestvennaya Literatura Publishers. A two-volume collection of *The Poetry of the Great Patriotic War* and a four-volume series, *The Victory*, have also been slated for release. The first volume of the series features the best war stories by Soviet writers. The second volume is a collection of poetry and the third highlights war-time journalism. The fourth volume comprises works by writers from the socialist countries dealing with World War II and the Resistance Movement in European countries.

The Victory in the East a collective effort, will be put out by Khabarovsk Book Publishers. The book details the defeat of militaristic Japan.

Among the total of 89 art books about the Great Patriotic War, editions by Planeta Publishers such as the 4-volume *The Great Patriotic War in Photographs and Film Stills*, *The Great Patriotic War*, the photo albums *The Victory Parade*, *Marshal Georgy Zhukov* and *Marshal Semyon Budyonny* are some of the most attractive.

A photo album *The Great Patriotic War: 1941—1945*, printed by Eesti Raamat in Tallinn, tells of the exploits of the Soviet people looked in a deadly battle against Nazi Germany and its satellites. The book documents nearly four years of the fighting. In those years press photographers and cameramen shared the lot of soldiers and partisans. They immortalised the major events that entered into the annals of the historic exploit and recorded them for future generations. The book features photographs and documentary film stills by V. Arkashev, A. Yegorov, I. Krasutsky, A. Ustinov and other photographers as well as shots made by the Germans themselves.

The heroic deeds of the Soviet people are also depicted in paintings and drawings. Izobrazitelnoye Iskusstvo Publishers will produce two art albums—*Forever Alive* and *Adjimushkai* (a name given to a maze of subterranean stone quarries located within the boundaries of Kerch. Its fame derives from the stubborn resistance put up by about 10,000 Soviet troops fro May to October 1942 trapped underground following the evacuation of Soviet troops from the Kerch peninsular, and despite lack of electricity and drinking water, the Soviet soldiers carried on a desperate struggle for nearly half a year, spurning German suggestions that they capitulate). Sovetsky Khudozhnic Publishers will print the art album, *The Feat is Forty Years Old.*

Frequent mention is made in the reminiscences of war veterans of their favourite poetry books or stirring songs that helped them gain peace of mind during lulls in the fighting, pluck up extra strength and inspiration for the struggle. Popular wartime songs are still sung today. The song-books, *For the Soviet Homeland* and *Our Biography*, will be printed by the Muzyka and Sovetsky Kompozitor Publishers.

Mindful of the fact that the victory anniversary will be celebrated by the entire progressive community, publishers in the Soviet Union print many books aimed at foreign readers : 65 publications totalling 1.2 million copies will be printed soon. Of special interest among books to be issued by Progress Publishers are the English-language edition of *The Major Battles of the Soviet Army in World War Two*, *The Second World War : Fiction and Reality* by Oleg Rzheshevsky in English and Swedish, *On the Road to the Great Victory* by Vilnis Sipols and *Soviet Diplomacy in 1941—1945* in English, Danish and German.

Russky Yazyk Publishers are to put out a collection of fiction and poetry about the war called *Tragedies and Exploits*. A two-volume English-language edition of *Password : Victory* will be printed under the Raduga Publishers label. Avrora Publishers are preparing *Saved for Humanity : The Hermitage During the Siege*, a series featuring works of visual art, posters and post-cards glorifying the tenacity of the Leningraders and depicting events of the war.

NELLIE STENISHCHEVA

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Voyenizdat: A Chronicle of Heroic Deeds

Last October the publishing house of the USSR Ministry of Defence celebrated its 65th anniversary. Voyenizdat came into its own as the Red Army grew and gained in strength. The truthful printed word armed our servicemen spiritually, helping them in their fighting against the counter-revolution and, later, against the "Black plague" of fascism.

Over the last war years the publishing house issued more than 200 titles totalling over 200 million copies. Nowadays, Voyenizadt publications serve as a reminder of the grim trials of wartime.

Here is an interview of VAAP-INFORM correspondent Nikolai Viskov with Lt.-Gen. Vasily Ryabov, Voyenizdat Board Chairman.

Q. Please tell us about the most important books about World War II, which have appeared in recent years.

A. The publication of the 12-volume *History of World War II, 1939-45*, highly acclaimed by war historians, presents an objective treatment of the origins of the war, its character, progress and outcome. Its authors give a persuasive expose of bourgeois falsifications about the war. The war theme predominates in the eight-volume *Soviet Military Encyclopaedia*, which also received critical acclaim not only in the Soviet Union, but outside it.

An enlarged edition of *The Great Patriotic War of the USSR: A Brief History* by the Institute of Marxism-Leninism under the CC CPSU was timed to appear on the 40th anniversary of Victory Day. Among other works whose publication has been timed for this occasion are *The Liberating Mission of the Soviet Armed Forces in Europe*, *Heroes of the Soviet Union*, a historical essay, and *The Great Patriotic War*, an album of photographs.

Q. In recent years there has been greater interest in eyewitness accounts and war veterans' reminiscences of major battles. What do you do about meeting the growing demand for war memoirs?

A. Over 1,700 titles of memoir literature have been recently brought out in the Soviet Union, with Voyenizdat's share exceeding 500 publications, among them such favourites as the memoirs of outstanding military commanders and war heroes Georgy Zhukov, Alexander Vasilevsky, Konstantin Rokossovsky, Ivan Konev, Ivan Bagramyan, Vasily Chuikov and many others. People of all age-groups read these books with a keen interest which is evidenced by the great number of stirring responses coming in from readers.

We also issue reminiscences written by the rank-and-file combatants—officers and men. Most of these books appear in *The Front Line Soldiers Narrate* series, or come out in a different format of collected stories, *By Land, At Sea and In the Air*.

Voyenizdat has recently put out an interesting book by Colonel Zinchenko, Hero of the Soviet Union. His men Yegorov and Kantaria were the first to reach the rooftop of the Reichstag and hoist the Victory Banner which is now treasured in Moscow. He wrote *The Heroes of the Reichstag Storming*, a book commissioned by Voyenizdat publishers.

As Soviet poet Nikolai Dorizo once put it, the Reichstag was stormed not only by the Soviet troops who happened to be in Berlin in the spring of 1945, but also by the many others who defended Brest, Moscow, Leningrad, Sevastopol and other Soviet cities. We remember those heroes. For instance, we have published two books by Marshal Nikolai Krylov, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union, entitled *The Stalingrad Line* and *The Glory Will Never Fade*, the memoirs dealing with the epic battle for Stalingrad and with the heroic defence of Odessa and Sevastopol.

Work has just got under way on a project involving the publication of memoirs on the postwar period and on the beneficiaries of Victory, who, four decades later, mount guard over the sacred cause of upholding peace. One of the latest publications, *All*

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A Literary Chronicle of the Great Victory

SOVREMENNIK Publishers, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, has prepared a 12-volume publication entitled The Wreath of Glory—*an anthology of literary and documentary works about the war. It is a unique work, unparalleled in world literature. Each volume includes literary texts (verses, short stories, fragments of poems, tales and novels), excerpts from the diaries of front-line troops, wartime journalism, and memoirs, and is accompanied by an introductory article and an afterword, by the comments of a military historian, and a reference section containing information about the authors, dates and a bibliography. The edition is arranged chronologically.*

In the early morning of June 22, 1941, without any declaration of war, Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Fierce fighting broke out along the entire front, stretching 3,500 kilometres from the Arctic to the Black Sea. The first volume of *The Wreath of Glory* covers the months immediately after the treacherous German attack (summer-autumn, 1941).

The frontier outposts and towns received the first blow; the defenders of Brest covered themselves with eternal glory, and their story is recounted in a fragment of Sergei Smirnov's book, *The Brest Fortress*.

The initial period of the war was a difficult one for the Soviet people: they felt the full force of Europe's most powerful military machine. Their thoughts and feelings at that time are reflected in Vasily Lebedev-Kumach's famous verse: "The people's war, the holy war is on."

From the very beginning of the war the Soviet people never lost their faith in the ultimate victory, and not without reason did the government proclaim: "Our cause is just. The enemy will be destroyed. We will win" (the first volume—like the subsequent volume—includes excerpts from various state papers).

The Soviet people showed their deep and powerful love for their country, but at the same time they learned the "science of hate" towards the invaders (after the title of Mikhail Sholokhov's famous essay). The whole nation was united as one man. It was not only conscripts who went off to fight, but also those who were below the official age for conscription. Yulia Drunina's poem, "I Left My Childhood", became a programme for all her generation—those 16-and 17-year-olds who were hardened on the front-line by their civic courage. Thousands of boys and girls gave their lives for their country's freedom, and Pavel Antokolsky's poem "Son" is a requiem to these young heroes.

From the first days of the war Soviet writers took their place in military units and the People's Voluntary Corps. One day they were writers, poets and playwrights— and the next, they had become war correspondents and officers and men of the Red Army. Of the thousand members of the All-Union Writers' Organization, over 200 were killed in action, including Arkady Gaidar, Yuri Krymov, Pyotr Lidov, Vladimir Stavsky, Yevgeny Petrov, Zakhar Khatzrevin and Boris Lapin...Their works are also included in the anthology. Soviet writers fought not only for the freedom of their country, but also to preserve the culture of the world. The danger facing it is described in the diary notes of Maria Shchegoleva, an employee of the Lev Tolstoy Museum Estate, which over a period of some two months was vandalized by the occupying German forces. These notes are entitled "The Black Days of Yasnaya Polyana".

Extracts from Vladimir Karpov's novel, *The Commander*, and Ivan Stadniuk's *The War* describe the intensive work undertaken to reconstruct the country's economy (under the slogan "Everything for the Front, everything for Victory!"); the evacuation of the civilian population and industrial enterprises; the organization of defence and the re-

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re-grouping of army units; the heroic defence of Kiev, Odessa and Sevastopol—everything which called for the complete mobilization of the country's physical and spiritual strength.

The defence of Moscow and the battle for the Soviet capital are the central episodes of the first phase of the war and are the subject of the second volume of the anthology. Thousands of Muscovites, together with units of the Red Army, rose in defence of their home town; these events are described in Yevgeny Dolmatovsky's poem "The People's Voluntary Corps" and in Marietta Shaginyan's essay "The Defence of Moscow" and they provided the inspiration for Mikhail Kulchitsky's agitating poem "Every House Is a Pillbox".

One of the most vivid episodes of the battle for Moscow was the feat of 28 soldiers of General Panfilov's rifle division, who fought heroically against the enemy's tank units (Alexander Bek's book *Volokolamskoye Highway* is dedicated to these men). Another unforgettable exploit was that of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Hero of the Soviet Union, an eighteen-year-old partisan girl who was executed by the Germans (Margarita Aliger's poem "Zoya"). Alexei Surkov, Konstantin Simonov, Mikhail Isakov and Savva Dangulov all paint a dramatic and majestic picture of the defence of Moscow and the Soviet counter-offensive. The memoirs of Marshal Zhukov and General Beloborodov portray the first major defeat suffered by the German Army, the end of the "Blitzkrieg", and the beginning of the turning-point in the war on the Eastern Front.

Another volume deals with the unprecedented 900-day blockade of Leningrad, the second largest industrial and administrative centre and the most important naval base on the Baltic coast. The city was seen by the Nazis as the key to the whole campaign: it was the site of the October Revolution and, if taken by the Germans, would, like the planned seizure of Moscow, have dealt a severe blow to the morale of the Soviet people. But at this point, operation Barbarossa failed as well. The heroism and patriotism of the Soviet people worked miracles: not for nothing was Ilya Ehrenburg's essay on the defenders of Leningrad entitled "The Pride of Russia". Extracts from Nikolai Chukovsky's novel *The Baltic Sky*, from *Blockade* by Alexander Chakovsky, and from *The Book of the Blockade* by Ales Adamovich and Daniil Granin help to conjure both the image of inhuman suffering and the courage of the people of Leningrad. Their heroic feat is also expressed in the poetry of Nikolai Tikhonov and Olga Bergholtz.

Although cut off by land and sea and caught in the grip of the encircling enemy forces, Leningrad held out and continued to fight (this is convincingly described in the memoirs of Marshals Zhukov and Govorov).

The director of the Hermitage, Academician Orbeli, gives a striking account of the steps taken to save the treasures of one of the world's greatest museums. There are also eye-witness accounts of the first performance in 1942 in the Leningrad Philharmonia (and the simultaneous broadcasting by the city's radio network) of Dmitry Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, which took place during an aerial and artillery bombardment.

But although the spirit of the defenders remained unshakeable, the cost was very high, particularly during the first winter of the blockade, 1941-42 (the poetess Vera Inber entitled her recollections about the blockade "This Terrible Winter"). A Leningrad schoolgirl, Tanya Savicheva, who later, along with all of her family, died of hunger, kept a diary through that winter, and her notes were presented as evidence at the Nuremberg Trials; these same notes also appear in the anthology.

Pain and suffering, courage and steadfastness, and an unshakeable faith in the coming victory all find expression in the various literary publications incorporated in *The Wreath of Glory*. This edition is undoubtedly a massive literary and documentary monument to the heroic exploits of the Soviet people.

V. LVOV
VAAP-INFORM

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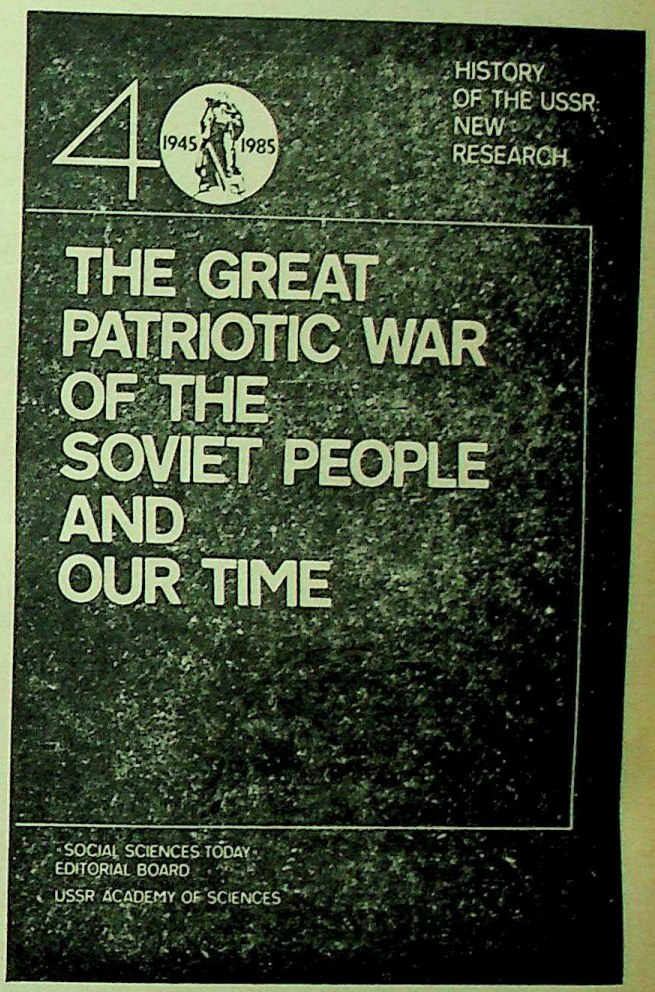
The Great Patriotic War and the Present Day

This collection has been published in English, Spanish, German, Portuguese, French and Arabic by the Editorial Board "Social Sciences and the Present Day" of the USSR Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the Institute of Military History of the USSR Ministry of Defence. The authors include eminent political and military figures.



What is of most interest to the reader in this important work? The efforts of the Soviet people and the operations of its armed forces during World War II are described in considerable detail. Of undoubted interest is the analysis of the causes, aims and nature of the world conflict (1939—45) and the historical processes at work in the pre-war years. The book demonstrates the confrontation between the socio-economic and political systems of the combatant nations, and there is an assessment of the contribution to the victory made by the people and army of every anti-Hitler coalition state and by all participants of the resistance movement.

Drawing on numerous documentary sources, the authors reveal the decisive role played by the Soviet people in the struggle and the victory over fascism—the very role which Western propaganda now tries to falsify or ignore. The collection contains a critical Soviet analysis of Western historiography relating to World War II.

World War II was the largest armed confrontation between two coalitions in history. More than 60 states, representing four-fifths of the world's population, participated in the conflict, which was fought over the territory of 40 states by more than 110 million combatants.

The Great Patriotic War began with the German invasion of the USSR on June 22, 1941. The Eastern Front became the main theatre of operations of the war. More than 50 million lives were lost, of which 40 per cent were Soviet casualties. The war removed thousands of towns and tens of thousands of villages from the face of the earth; it destroyed hundreds of thousands of factories and plants, and it left millions of widows, orphans and invalids. An ocean of grief and suffering remains long after the war. . .

The book analyses each phase of the war and shows the contribution of the armed forces, the partisans and underground, and the workers on the home front to the victory over the German invaders.

The decisive military and political event of the first phase of the war (1941—November 1942) was clearly the rout of the German forces at the approaches of Moscow, the first major German defeat in the war, which signalled the end of the "Blitzkrieg" and the beginning of the turning point in the course of the war. The Soviet victory in the Battle of Moscow hastened the formation and strengthening of the 28-nation anti-German coalition.

The turning point of the war came at the Battle of

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Truth and Falsehood about the War

VAAP-INFORM presents a work by E. N. Kulkov, O. A. Rzheshevsky and I. A. Chelyshev entitled Truth and Falsehood About the Second World War, *published by Voyenizdat, Moscow.*

Could World War II have been averted? Bourgeois historians reply in the negative, but, according to Marxist historical science, in the years prior to the war there was a real possibility of preserving peace. The authors describe the USSR's attempts to create a system of collective security which could have restrained the aggressors and averted the war. The Soviet Union conducted talks with Britain and France aimed at concluding a mutual-aid treaty, but the Western powers gave Hitler to understand that the USSR stood alone and that Germany could attack first Poland and then the Soviet Union, with no danger of any opposition from the West.

When Germany treacherously attacked the Soviet Union, Western politicians anticipated a rapid German victory. However, the first major battles, and especially the Battle of Moscow, showed that the "Blitzkrieg" had failed. The Wehrmacht was dealt a shattering blow before the gates of Moscow, the reasons for which are analysed in depth in the book.

Defence in depth, organized by the Supreme Command Headquarters, exhausted the attacking German forces in a series of battles throughout October and November 1941. The necessary conditions for the Soviet counter-offensive were created and, though outnumbered, the Soviet forces threw the Germans back from Moscow to a distance of between 100 and 250 kilometres.

The authors consider that Western historians are less than objective in their assessment of the reasons for this first major German defeat. They belittle the significance of the battles of Moscow, Stalingrad Kursk, and of other Soviet military operations, seeking to portray the events in such a way that the outcome of the war seemed to be determined not in the East but in the West, and the main contribution to the final victory was made not by the Soviet Army, but by British and American armed forces.

These "falsifiers" of the history of the war contend that the Soviet victory at Stalingrad would have been

impossible without the support of the Western Allies: the "deficit of reserves"—in their words—which prevented the German High Command from achieving its goals on the Eastern Front in 1942 was due to the necessity of keeping huge forces in the West in order to repulse the anticipated landing of the Anglo-American expeditionary force.

However, this fact, as the authors note, does not stand up to a close examination. Before the Battle of Stalingrad, the Wehrmacht had 520,000 men stationed in France, while on the Eastern Front there were 2,997,000 men—almost six times as many. There was one German air fleet in the West and four in the East At Stalingrad the Axis forces lost one quarter of their total strength in the East—amounting to almost 1.5 million officers and men. That victory was the turning

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point in the course of the war, but in an attempt to belittle this historical fact, Western historians resort to the unscientific theory of "decisive battles" and "turning points" in the war, according to which the outcome of the entire war was determined not by the defeat of the German Army's main forces on the Eastern Front but by a whole series of battles and military campaigns in various parts of the world. Adherents of this theory use every opportunity to exaggerate the importance of the Pacific and North African theatres where American and British forces were involved.

The authors produce many facts to refute such assertions. For example, Western historians regard the Battle of Midway, in June 1942, which allegedly forced the Japanese onto the defensive, as a decisive battle. In actual fact the damage inflicted on the Japanese fleet—four aircraft-carriers and a heavy cruiser destroyed—was not serious enough to noticeably affect the course of the war. It should also be remembered that throughout the North African campaign, from July 1940 to May 1943, only 12 German and Italian divisions were destroyed.

Western assertions that from the summer of 1944 onwards "France became the main theatre of military operations" are shown to be completely unjustifiable: in June 1944 there were 4.3 million Axis troops on the Eastern Front, while in Italy and France there were about one million men. The fact that the Second Front was not opened until 1944 is eloquent proof of the delaying tactics employed by Britain and the US.

The value of this book lies, most of all, in its strict attention to factual evidence. It draws broadly on the public speeches of Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill, and of other well-known figures, on the memoirs of Soviet and foreign military commanders, academic research, and the recollections of journalists and others who participated directly in the war. The book is consequently a valuable and cognitive work and reads with unabated interest.

YELENA BARSOVA
VAAP-INFORM

Voyenizdat: A Chronicle of Heroic Deeds

Continued from page 12

Oceans Within Easy Reach by Vasily Grishanov, tells about the round-the-world journeys of Soviet submarines, including the cruise to the Arctic Pole. The author gives a sympathetic portrayal of the seamen who keep a watchful eye on anything that might disrupt the peaceful life of the Soviet people.

Q. What do you think makes memoirs so entrancing?

A. Above all, they are well-documented and true-to-life. Readers' attention is arrested by eyewitness accounts of earth shattering events, by the sincerity and empathy of their presentation. It would be wrong to assume that these books are intended exclusively for readers with a military background. They have a universal appeal. And what really matters is that today these books are read by young people who can only draw on the combat experiences of their fathers and who revere the memory of their exploits and seek to absorb their indomitable will power, moral values and ideals.

Q. Apart from memoirs, is there anything else Voyenizdat offers to young readers?

A. We run a special *Library of the Young Patriot* that focuses on the daring feats of young heroes. The titles speak for themselves. For instance, *Partisan Eaglets* by Vladimir Yakovenko is a book describing feats of valour performed by guerilla teenagers in Byelorussia during the Great Patriotic War.

Recent editions in this series include *The Dockyard Side* by Galina Drobot, *Armour Ablaze* by Sergei Isachenko and others. With young readership in mind, we published the *Everything the Young Reader Should Know About the Soviet Armed Forces* series. Basically, these are illustrated magazines depicting crucial stages in the history of our Armed Forces.

Most of the fiction books, of which we put out over 60 annually, are also aimed at a young audience. For example, we regularly reprint *The Story of a Real Man*, a best-seller by Boris Polevoi. In answer to readers' requests, Voyenizdat has brought out in huge printings the works by Mikhail Sholokhov, Nikolai Ostrovsky, Alexei Tolstoi, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Georgy Markov, Konstantin Simonov, Rasul Gamzatov and other Soviet authors.

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Children's Literature: Facts and Figures

More than one hundred Soviet publishers (out of a total of 214) publish literature for children.

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Over 500 million copies of books for children are published annually in the 51 languages of the peoples of the USSR.

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About 120,000 books for young readers are issued every hour by our publishers, almost one and a half million every day.

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The country's major printing-works in terms of books for children is Detskaya Kniga No. 1, in Moscow; its daily output is 300 thousand books.

.....

There are 11 specialized publishers in the country which only produce books for children and adolescents.

.....

Detskaya Literatura, the Moscow publishers, is the biggest firm of its kind in the USSR and in Europe. It specializes in books on different subjects for readers aged between 2 and 17. Each year it publishes 600 titles in a general printing of 230 million copies. Its most popular series are "For the Very Young", "My First Books", "We Read On Our Own", "Fairy-tale after Fairy-tale", "Heroes of Our Time".

.....

Malysh, the Moscow publishers, specializes in books for children of preschool age and for junior schoolchildren. It publishes up to 300 titles in a general printing of 100 million copies a year. Malysh produces picture-books, toy books, transfers, colouring books, bricks with pictures.

Soviet children's literature is multinational. Each Soviet Republic prints works by writers representing all the peoples of the USSR. The major publishers, Detskaya Literatura (Russian Federation) and Veselka (Ukraine) issue about 60 titles by authors from the different Union republics every year.

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Books for children of all ages are issued by the specialized publishers Esh Gvardia (Uzbekistan); Zhalyn (Kazakhstan); Nakaduli (Georgia); Gyandjlik (Azerbaijan); Virtuis (Lithuania).

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Continued on page 21

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A JOURNEY INTO CHILDHOOD

Half a century has passed since the foundation of Detgiz (now Detskaya Literatura*) Publishers. Maxim Gorky himself was directly responsible for organizing the enterprise, while Lenin's wife and companion Nadezhda Krupskaya always watched over the early days of Detgiz and actively helped in its work. Initially, Detgiz concentrated almost entirely on Russian children's literature, but with the rise of a multinational culture in the Soviet Union, the appearance of the minorities' written languages and subsequently literatures among the people inhabiting the former Russian borderlands, the publishing house established a special editorial section for the literatures of the various Soviet nationalities. Soviet children's literature would be inconceivable now without the works of Nodar Dumbadze from Georgia, Chinghis Aitmatov from Kirghizia, the Avar poet Rasul Gamzatov, and Yuri Rytkheu, a Chukchi.

Today there are editorial departments dealing with numerous areas of publishing: contemporary Russian literature for children under school age; for younger school children; for teenagers and for young adults; editorial departments for the national literatures of the USSR; for foreign countries, for historical, popular scientific and adventure literature and journalism; for books aimed at aesthetic education; for literary criticism and for bibliographies. There is also an editorial department dealing with literary debutantes, and a House of Children's Books which studies the interests of the reading public and the life of a book after its publication.

The contents and subject matter of the books published are of the widest variety. A major undertaking is the 50-volume *Library of World Literature*, which should be completed in 1986. The same year will see the publication of the last of ten volumes in the series. *The Schoolchild's Library: The Life of Lenin.* One recent publication is a beautifully-presented book by the famous children's writer Sergei Mikhalkov entitled *Comrades Children*; Anatoly Alexin is preparing for publication of a collection of stories relating to the activities of both young and adult workers on the home front during the Second World War.

The famous *Library of Adventure and Science Fiction* —the favourite edition of several generations of teenagers—was founded as long ago as the 1930s, while in the late 1940s the *Golden Library*, containing the best of Soviet writers, was first published. This series of books has included works by Mikhail Sholokhov, Rasul Gamzatov, Lev Kassil and Albert Likhanov, and all writers consider it a great honour to have a book published in this series.

Another of the publishers' aims is to acquaint its young readers with great thinkers of the past and their ideas on the most important questions of life, in order to help children form their own view of the world. Among these philosophical works are: Montaigne's thoughts *On the Art of Living with Dignity*—intended for high-school children; biographies of Plato and Aristotle; the collected works of Rousseau; and books about leading Soviet and foreign scholars. All of these publications are part of the series *People. Time. Ideas.*

Works by foreign authors are published in massive editions by Detskaya Literatura. These books are very popular with Soviet youth and they help to broaden their understanding of life of young people all over the world.

The conditions in which the publishing house works have undergone a fundamental change over the past half-century, and there has been an unprecedented increase in editions published. The series *My First Little Books*, for example, has now reached two million copies. With the publication of such vast editions it is impossible to issue books of anything less than the very highest quality, both in terms of artistic level and irreproachable good taste.

The "service record" of Detskaya Literatura Publishers makes impressive reading: Grand Prix winner at the 1937 Paris International Exhibition, Gold Medal at the 1958 Brussels World Fair, The Golden Letter for the most attractive book at the 1979 Leipzig competition, the 1976 Bologna Prize for Children's Literary Criticism, the Golden Apple in Bratislava—on more than one occasion, the highest awards at numerous exhibitions and book competitions in the USSR, and this is far from being a full list of honours.

Children come into contact with books from Detskaya Literatura at an early age; these books grow up with the children and sometimes leave them slightly behind, calling after the children to follow; they remain true friends and companions throughout childhood.

Detskaya Literatura is the world's largest publishing house specializing in literature for children of all ages.

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Children! How I envy you

"The child is the most exacting and 'hard - to - please' reader," says Vasily Golov, director of the Malysh (Child) Publishing House. "So much depends on the book which falls into his hands that it doesn't have the right to be mediocre." Coming from him, these words seem particularly convincing to me, for millions of children from all around the world thank this man in their letters for good books.

While he was telling me about the publishing house, Vasily Golov carefully held out to me various Malysh publications, and as I looked through them I thought to myself, "Children! How I envy you—you have all these books to read still."

The very name of our publishing house speaks of its reading audience—we publish books for young children. Just one quarter of our annual production is intended for junior school children, and the rest is addressed to those who are just being introduced to books.

The publishing house releases 600 titles a year, and is proud of its pop-up books and its variety of pasteboard books. You open the book and before your eyes a large, lifelike hare incessantly jabbering about his 'heroic deeds', or a brightly dressed crow with a cheese, who has completely lost her head from the compliments paid to her rises up

A little boy with a "Malysh" fairy-tale book.

from the flat leaf of the page. These are our toy-books. Our pasteboard books can be "read" even by those who do not yet know the alphabet, the colourful pictures forming themselves into a single topic.

The heart of the writer and the imagination of the artist plus brilliant polygraphic work—this is what Malysh books are.

Great popularity has recently been enjoyed by colouring books, table-top games and posters.

Traditionally, we release serialised publications, and I would like to single out the series "Tales of a Friendly Family"—of the peoples of the Russian Federation, "Tales of the Fifteen Sisters"—of the fifteen republics of the Soviet Union, and "Pages from the History of Our Motherland", which, for many, is their first acquaintance with the history of the USSR. In the "Kindergarten Library" series we release mainly classical fairy-tales.

Hardly anyone can imagine a children's book without illustrations, and Malysh publications are to a great extent indebted to the level of design and illustration for their popularity. Here, the service of Yevgeny Rachev, our chief book designer, People's Artist of the RSFSR, is unquestionable. Such expert illustrators as Anatoly Kokorin, Veniamin Losev, Tatyana Mavrina, Mai Miturich, Mikhail Skobelev, Nikolai Ustinov and other famous artists are regular contributors too.

The publishing house fulfils many orders from the Mezhdunarodnava Kniga foreign-trade association. More than 100 titles in 20 languages with a total print in excess of two million are released every year, and are read by children in 50 countries in all the continents.

The Moscow International Book Fairs noticeably facilitate the broadening of links with foreign publishers. At the 1983 Fair alone, Malysh concluded advance contracts with representatives from 46 countries under the mediation of Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga. Our Polish colleagues ordered 25 titles, the Yugoslavs and Cubans—20 each, the Czechoslovaks—19, Progress Books of Canada—24, and Imported Publications of the USA—16.

We have established sound links with Globus Publishers of Austria, Kultura Publishers of Hungary, LKG (Leipziger Komissions und Grossbuchhandel) of the German Democratic Republic, Hemus of Bulgaria, CDL (Central Distribuidora Livreira) of Portugal, and with some British and Finnish publishing houses.

Publishers from Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Syria, as well as other developing countries, are among those who order from Malysh. India annually imports several hundred thousand copies of children's books.

Annual meetings with the representatives of foreign firms have become traditional. At these meetings we adjust our commercial plans ac-

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cording to demand and define the titles of our publications and the size of printings. Most of all our clients are interested in toy-books, Russian and Soviet children's classics, and fairy-tales.

We also publish quite a lot of "serious" literature for children. These are books of a publicistic nature which talk about work and the choice of a profession or trade, and include such titles as *The Taiga Near the Yenisei* by Viktor Astafyev, *The Fir Tree Brook* by Yuri Kazakov, and *All My Life I've Been Playing With Dolls* by the well-known Soviet puppeteer Sergei Obraztsov. Poems by several young poets have made up a collection called *Streams*. For these poets, Malysh is opening up the way into children's literature.

We often turn to works by foreign authors. As a rule, these are the classics—the fairy-tales of Charles Perrault, the brothers Grimm, and Hans Christian Anderson. *The Game of Riddles* by the modern Bulgarian writer Asen Bosev has come out in Sergei Mikhalkov's translation.

Every year we hold a competition for the best book. The 1983 winners were: *The Road to Sokolniki* by Yuri Yakovlev, the collection of fairy-tales *On the Sea and on the Ocean*, *Tales About Lenin* by Sergei Alekseev, *Forest Tales* by Nikolai Sladkov, and Pushkin's *Fairy Tales*.

The children's book is a most important means of forming and developing the child's personality. It introduces the child to the beautiful, and to the history and culture of various countries and peoples.

NELYA STENISCHEVA

The Great Patriotic War and the Present Day

Continued from page 15

Stalingrad, where a 330,000-strong enemy force was destroyed.

In the final phase of the war (January 1944—May 8, 1945) the victories of the Soviet Army clearly demonstrated that the Soviet Union was capable of destroying the enemy and liberating the people of Europe, without the participation of Anglo-American forces. Faced with this situation the United States and Britain had to carry out their promise to open a second front.

Having completed the defeat of Germany (the German High Command signed the act of unconditional surrender on May 8, 1945, the Soviet Union, fulfilling its obligation, entered the war against Japan. The Soviet Army, in a lightning campaign of 24 days, routed the main Japanese land forces—the million-strong Kwantung Army—and brought about the unconditional capitulation of Japan, which signalled the end of both the Great Patriotic War and World War II.

In reckoning the lessons of the war the authors remind us once again that any attempt by imperialist powers to resort to force in their historical argument with socialism is doomed to failure. At the same time, the events of 1939-45 teach us that now more than ever we must join together in an active and co-ordinated movement to avert a new war and to stand up for peace.

IOSIF SHIFRIN
VAAP-INFORM

Children's Literature

Continued from page 18

There are 40 publishers in the country issuing ABCs and textbooks for schoolchildren. ABCs are published in the USSR in 89 languages in a general printing of 5 million 500 thousand copies a year.

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Best works of foreign contemporary and classical literature for children are published in the languages of the peoples of the USSR. These are Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, James Fenimore Cooper, Charles Perrault, Rudyard Kipling, Gianni Rodari, A. A. Milne, A. Lindgren, to name but a few.

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Raduga Publishers (Moscow) specialize in literature for adults and children in foreign languages. Last year it published 237 titles for children in a general printing of over 6 million copies in 40 foreign languages.

Each year foreign publishers acquire copyrights for 140-145 works of Soviet children's literature.

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In Search of Tomorrow

Every Soviet child has a library of its own

What are the current problems confronting Soviet children's science fiction?

In recent years works of science fiction for children and young adults have begun to abandon their former function of widely disseminating scientific knowledge (this function has been taken over by popular science literature and television) Science fiction for children has begun to abandon its role as the link connecting laboratory, factory floor and reader and to rid itself of its preoccupation with describing the technical aspects of inventions; and every kind of machine and device on earth and in space. In the past this was regarded as the main, if not obligatory objective of science fiction for the young reader. Children's science fiction is becoming socially and morally more responsible, it makes every effort to deal with the serious problems of our day and age, seeking for this new literary methods.

In an issue of *Literatura dlya Detei* (Literature for Children), it was remarked that "...in all circumstances of complex and quickly-changing life, one must do one's duty as a human being before others and oneself. Today there is no age that is free of this obligation. Even children must do their duty...".

And this is true for the renowned Soviet science fiction writers the brothers Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, who in their works always remain faithful to their duties. On New Year's Eve, the hero of their *A Tale of Friendship and Unfriendliness*, a fourteen-year-old boy named Andrei T. receives a mysterious message that his best friend, Genka Abrikos, has gotten into trouble. Obeying the sacred law of friendship, Andrei embarks on a journey in the course of which, in keeping with the canon of fairy-tale ordeals, he must go through fire and water. But what is most important for the hero is to overcome fear, to stand up to frightening solitude and sensible circumspection. Only then, the authors argue, can a person become mature, can he mould his character.

Analogous problems are wrested with in the story *A Guy from Hell*. The story's hero, Gag, a member of the Battling Cats, the name of shock troops of the Great Duke, the ruler of planet Gigand, lands on Earth. Confronting the reader are two morals: the humanism and selflessness of the Earth people, and the cold and cruel conviction of a youth educated in a military academy in the correctness of a natural division of people into those who must be killed in the name of the Duke and those who hold the right to do the killing.

It seems as though the psychological experiment of the Earth people aimed at re-educating Gag is unsuccessful: Gag seizes an Earth ship headed for Gigand and returns to his home. But in the end we discover that the hero nevertheless begins to realize that in the world there are other truths, truths more lofty than service of the Great Duke.

The teaching of proper social and civic conduct is an important element of today's science fiction for children. More and more often children's science fiction raises serious issues, though not through imitation of adult science fiction but by obeying the moral imperatives expressed in the words about the obligation of young adults.

"Wake up! Living amongst you are Good and Evil. We must, must, must uphold Good." With this unsubtle little song the Clown, one of the main characters of Svetlana Yagupova's *A Green Dolphin*, sets the tone for the entire story. Good is represented by Auntie Knep, the Clown, Lanjo the electrician, the inventor of a magical apparatus called the phonochron which can listen to the inner voice of objects, the Poet, the Artist and the Violinist. Also there is the Courageous Skipper, the personification of the romantic life of sea adventurers, and Don Quixote, Rom and Julia, the immortal heroes of immortal books, eternal symbols of nobleness and the loftiness of human feelings. Evil is

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found in the country of Sondaria, where the action of the story takes place. In this country it is not people who are the object of respect and esteem, but their bank accounts. Also, the people of this country are forbidden to engage in art and poetry because art and poetry inspire thoughts about the strange and unrealizable and lead to a violation of all standards, from dress and speaking to thinking.

Through their own experience, the twins Alt and Charlie realize how horrible it is when "people forget how to dream and fantasize, their eyes begin to lose their lustre and close, and their souls are overgrown with moss". But in Sondaria there are those in whom "warm hearts beat". Because of this, they are "capable of igniting stars". These people fight for their own freedom and the right to dream, against oppression and spiritlessness, lies, falsehoods and money-grubling, for man.

In the story the real is interwoven with the make-believe, complementing and enriching each other. Thus a world is born in which the realness of the characters, the vitality of the conflicts and the social bearing are not downplayed but on the contrary emphasized. The charm of the story is akin to that of all works of art dictated by true humaneness and love for people.

In a large proportion of modern children's science fiction the theme has to do with outer space or contacts with representatives of other civilizations. In these works the socio-psychological "invariants" of the hero are exposed in extraordinary, extreme situations which were aptly described by Stanislaw Lem when he said, "The unknown awaits us among the stars." *Illegal Planet*, a novel by Evgeny Voiskunsky and Isai Lukodyanov, possesses all the external signs of space science fiction. It tells about the study, exploration and adapting for man of planets of the solar system, about solving riddles of Pluto, establishing contact with its inhabitants and with the mysterious civilization of biophores, and about much more.

In this tale the authors are guided by the momentous task of showing the society of the future as the result of the interaction of three factors: scientific and technological, social, and moral progress, with the greatest emphasis on the last factor. In the end one of the book's main heroes, Alexei Morozov, dies while protecting his friend and fellow-member of the space expedition.

For children's science fiction heroic action is of extreme importance, for all young people by nature are inclined to heroic deeds. Heroic deeds can appear as the high point of human strength, as the resultant force of man's best qualities, as they do in the novel by Voiskunsky and Lukodyanov or in *Alyona's Asteroid*, a science fiction tale by Leningrad writer Dymov.

In *Alyona's Asteroid*, the writer presents the world of the future clearly and colourfully, using one of the perhaps most difficult methods of narration, telling the story through the person of the hero, eight-year-old Alyona Kovaleva. In worlds of the future as represented by *Illegal Planet* and *Alyona's Asteroid*, there is always a place for heroic deeds. Such deeds as if accumulated during the process of growing up, from earliest childhood. Traditional genres, in particular adventure novels, continue to be developed. Adventure novels are good only when the characters behave naturally, when their actions are psychologically motivated. In full keeping with these criteria is *The Wanderers' House*, a novel by Moscow science fiction writer Alexander Mirer (in an interview by Arkady Strugatsky, cosmonaut Konstantin Feoktistov called this novel one of the best works of Soviet science fiction of the seventies: *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, 24 August 1977).

The name of the first part of the book, "The Important Noon", is symbolic. Here noon, the dividing line of day, represents the moment in a person's life when something significant happens, and that person does something of great consequence. In the novel this moment was the decision of the young heroes to fight the cruel creatures from a distant planet who had already conquered many worlds. In a dramatic battle with the monsters the author is not afraid to burden his heroes with the heavy load of responsibility. After all, he believes in them, has confidence in their fairness, bravery, moral steadfastness. And the young reader, by identifying himself with the heroes and becoming a participant in exciting adventures, pays back the author with his loyalty. The victory of the heroes is determined not at all by the usual "need" for a happy ending, but by the fearlessness of the heroes, their constant helping of each other, their understanding that the fate of their planet depends on the success of their actions. The moral lessons of Mirer's novel will do the young readers good, reminding them that friendship and solidarity help overcome all difficulties.

Children's science fiction today is characterized by a search for new topical problems and a widening of the range of ideological and ethical issues. It is not by chance that in it we are witnessing the rise to the surface of ethical elements (which have always been the main content of Russian classical and Soviet children's literatures) and the emergence of a new type of hero, one who personifies the moral ideal, a person always active, deep-thinking, and truly human. Modern children's science fiction helps boys and girls to understand the meaning of our day and age, to find their place in life. What is most important, it teaches them responsibility for the future which they must build.

VLADIMIR GOPMAN
VAAP-INFORM

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The Shortest Route

VAAP-INFORM correspondent Nelya Steni-shcheva reports on the book series Scientists for Schoolchildren.

The range of interests of modern-day secondary school students is vast and varied. Their interests span quantum mechanics and electronics, history and philosophy, foreign policy and the composition of water, the structure of proteins and the cultivation of cotton. Where can they learn about all these things?

School textbooks fail to keep up with scientific progress. Although they contain many facts, their coverage very soon appears to be outdated. On the one extreme, academic journals provide too complex an explanation, and the press, on the other extreme, only probes the surface. Where, then, can schoolchildren turn to for specialized knowledge?

This question was given some thought by Academician Igor Petryanov-Sokolov and the editors of Pedagogika Publishers. They concluded that schoolchildren would best be helped by receiving their knowledge from a primary source—directly from scientists. And so the series *Scientists for Schoolchildren* was initiated. The series' creator, Igor Petryanov-Sokolov, wrote the first book of the series, called *The Most Unusual Substance in the World*, which in an easy-to-read style tells about water. The book was sold out as soon as it hit the stands, which provided a great boost for both the author and the publishers. This quick success meant that direct contact between scientists and schoolchildren was possible and necessary. In 1974 (when the series first appeared) two books were published, followed by three the next year. Since 1980 five books a year have been published, and plans are in the works to increase this number to six editions a year.

"The generation that is to replace us," says Academician Petryanov-Sokolov, "must read good books. It is precisely for this reason that I attach much importance to popular-science literature; for indeed, it informs schoolchildren about the achievements of scientists in various branches of knowledge. I expended great efforts on the creation of the *Scientists for Schoolchildren* series and am heartened by the fact that many top Soviet scientists have already contributed to it and told about the achievements of Soviet and world science, in a serious and precise way."

From Academician Vladimir Kirillin's book *Power Engineering Today and Tomorrow* schoolchildren have learned about the scale and areas of development of power engineering in the 20th century. *The Wonder of This Century*, a work by Academician Nikolai Basov, winner of Lenin and Nobel prizes, and Yuri Afanasyev, Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, talks about lasers. Another book, *How Physicists Work*, by Academician Arkady Migdal, gives an account of research in the field of vacuum, and Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Ivan Laptev's work, *A Test of Reason*, reports on the problems arising out of the interaction of society and nature.

Needless to say, six books a year contain too little space to illuminate the inexhaustible heap of problems on which modern scientists work. It would be futile to attempt to shed light on them all; nevertheless, the young explorers into unknown fields need to know about at least the basic trends of science. The most formidable challenge faced by the series' editors is to select important trends but without omitting those of global significance and without getting lost in details. How is this search being carried out?

"The series was conceived for leading scientists," says Nadezhda Gabisonia, a scientific editor for Pedagogika Publishers. "We find out which developments have been awarded prizes and which are at the stage of being resolved. We are in constant contact with the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences—a reliable compass and the best source of information. For the most part we start our search not with a subject but with an individual, for a new trend is started by an individual scientist. We try to give the series a multiform character, which is the major difficulty we confront in our work. Sometimes a scientist will write on a popular subject, making the book designed for all young readers; another time one of the series' books will deal with a narrow problem and be aimed at a smaller circle of readers. Whatever the case, the books are sold out momentarily. Our editions must be accessible to all and at a level of difficulty that takes into account the abilities of secondary school students."

It should be mentioned that it is not all that easy to be added to the list of authors of the series. As one academician jokingly pointed out, one must be published in the *Scientists for Schoolchildren* series to become an authority. The series' growing popularity, its large circulation (200,000 copies), small volume (about 100 pages), pocket format and the opportunity it provides for telling about one's field of work all make it very tempting to scientists.

A great many authors send in applications for their works to be accepted as part of the series, but only a handful are accorded this honour. Everything is taken into account, particularly the credentials of the applicant. Even today it is a rarity to find a Doctor of Science among the authors; most of them are world-renowned members of the Academy. Another important criterion of

Continued on page 29

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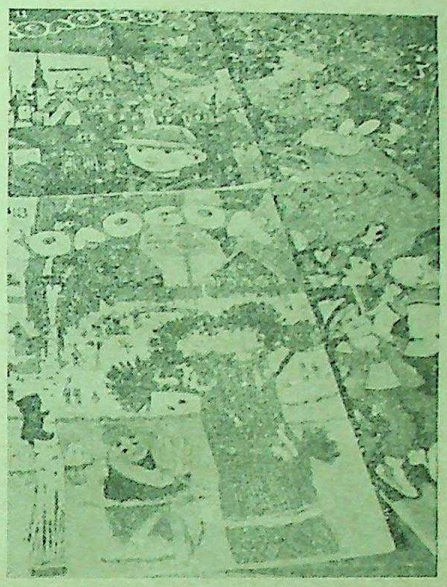
From Three to Fifteen

Soviet Children's Periodicals

Every morning postmen in cities, big and small, in towns, villages and out-of-the-way places deliver more than forty million copies of colourful magazines and newspapers. This sea of periodical publications is received by children who are still too young to read and teenagers who are troubled by such adult problems as how the world is set up, who and what to become and who to imitate in life. Maxim Gorky, during a discussion with Lev Kassil on how to develop Soviet children's literature, called it a "Great Power". Children's periodicals, which directly take part in the creation of future books for children and actively influence the formation of the minds of the coming generation, have been rightly called the second "Great Power" and have their own unique history. Among those who helped to found Soviet children's periodicals were Nadezhda Krupskaya, wife and comrade of Lenin, and an educator, the writers and teachers Samuil Marshak, Kornei Chukovsky and Boris Zhitkov, the young journalists and Young Pioneer leaders Mikhail Stremyakov and Nikolai Bogdanov, and many others.

Sixty years have passed since the release of the first magazine for children, *Baraban*. It was soon followed by *Pioner*, *Pionerskaya Pravda* and *Murzilka*. Over these years many searches were made for new ideas, failures were encountered, and new publications replaced old. Today in the Soviet Union there exists an integral and varied system of central and republican periodical publications that caters to almost all age



Kolobok magazine

groups and satisfies their various interests and passions.

Children's newspapers and magazines make every effort to answer all the questions young readers might have, to satisfy their craving for knowledge, help them choose their future professions and instil in them all the high qualities of man. This goal can be accomplished by the pen of a writer, the brush of an artist or the music of a composer who dedicate their labour and talent to children.

The first magazine a child will become familiar with is *Vesyolye Kartinki*, which has a circulation of 9 million copies. Pictures accompanied by short texts familiarize the child with the surrounding world, introduce him to Nature, animals, plants, life in the country, new constructions

Pioner magazine

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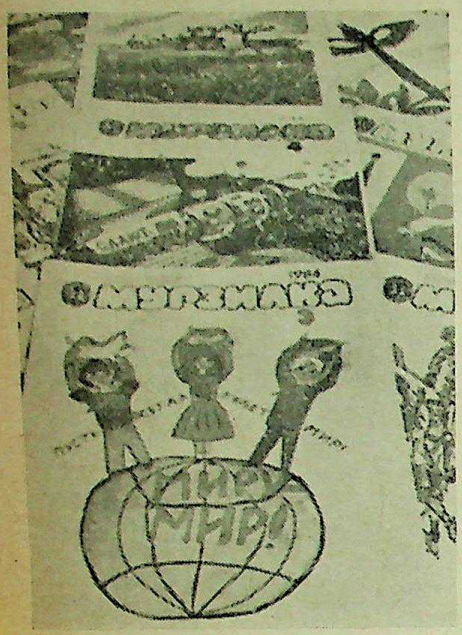

Murzilka magazine

and machines. All of this is done in an entertaining manner, through the adventures of the magazine's heroes. Fairy tales, riddles, tongue-twisters and facetious sayings help the child to more quickly learn his native tongue and comprehend its beauty.

Also for pre-schoolers is the magazine *Kolobok*, which has a circulation of 330,000. It also contains fairy tales, stories and poems, like *Vesyolye Kartinki*, but with the addition of a record insert on which is recorded gay children's songs and works of literature read orally. As soon as a new children's song is recorded it is learnt at home or in kindergarten and performed by children's choirs at holidays.

Upon entering school, the child is ready for another magazine, *Murzilka* whose circulation is 5,700,000. It is intended for junior schoolchildren, and is a bit more serious than *Vesyolye Kartinki* and *Kolobok*. *Murzilka* presents, in addition to fairy tales, Russian epics and stories, complete adventure stories, ballads and poems. Contributing to the magazine are leading adult and children's writers. The magazine has a letters section that publishes some of the more interesting letters received from the young leaders in which they tell about their own lives, conducts lessons on health and gives useful advice on sports. Contests, including one for the best drawings by children, is another of *Murzilka's* regular features.

Pioner, a Moscow magazine with a circulation of 1,600,000, and *Kostyor*, a Leningrad publication with a circulation of 780,000, cater to kids between the ages of ten and fifteen.

Pioner, which was started sixty years ago, is the oldest of the publications for children. Its history is

Vesyolye Kartinki magazine

connected with the brightest chapters of children's literature. All famous Soviet children's writers contributed their stories, novels, poems and tales to this magazine. Among them were Vladimir Mayakovsky, Eduard Bagritsky, Sergei Mikhalkov, Samuil Marshak, Mikhail Prishvin, Kornei Chukovsky, Konstantin Paustovsky, Ruvim Fraerman, Arkady Gaidar, Lev Kassil, and many more. Today their tradition is being followed by such much read writers as Albert Likhanov, Vladislav Krapivin, Vladimir Zheleznikov, Maria Prilezhaeva and Zoya Voskresenskaya. Leading children's writers and new talent also write for *Kostyor*.

Pioner and *Kostyor* essentially contain the same wide range of materials, with the sole difference that *Pioner* is oriented towards children of 12 to 15, while *Kostyor* is for the 10 to 11-year-olds. The magazines' broad format allows the kids to learn about science and technology, natural phenomena, sports and athletes, school and Young Pioneer activities. On their pages are feature stories on new constructions and workers, legendary expeditions and the native places of great writers. The magazines also contain humor, riddles and charades. *Pioner* and *Kostyor* discuss with the readers international events and the peaceloving policy of the Soviet Union. In them the young readers will find articles on morality and proper behaviour, friendship of boys and girls and respect to elders. Both magazines print poems, stories and drawings done by the children themselves. Each of the magazines yearly receives from 50,000 to 100,000 letters from their readers, the most interesting of which are published. *Pioner* sponsors tournaments for budding chess champions for the prize of the White Rook club. *Kostyor* holds a Sprint school for young runners. Both magazines sponsor nationwide contests for kids and help school groups to organize their own work and leisure. Yet the greatest part of the space in the magazines is given over to children's literature. Many literary works first appear in *Pioner* and *Kostyor* before they are published by Detskaya Literatura children's publishers.

For children of the 1980s, the world is filled with a variety of colours. The secrets of outer space and matter, the riddles of biology, environmental protection, the latest discoveries in science and technology, the bright features of modern painting —all this amazes and interests children. Satisfying the wide range of interests of children and young adults are the specialized magazines

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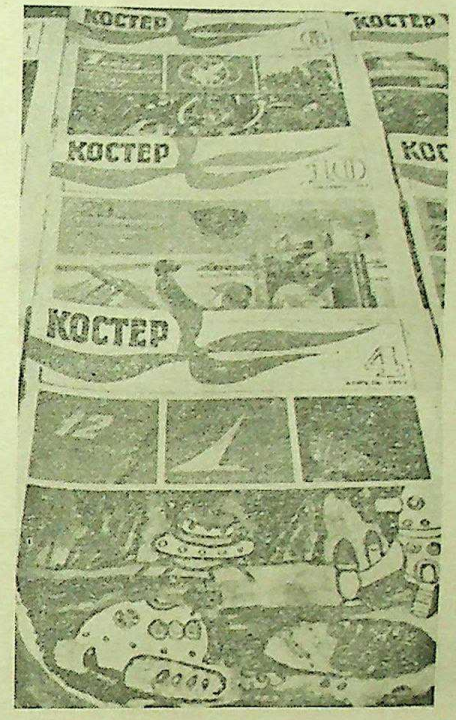
and miscellanies *Yuni Tekhnik* (cir. 2 million plus), *Yuni Naturalist* (cir. 3 million plus), *Modelist-Konstruktor* (cir. 1 million plus), *Yuni Khudozhnik* (cir. 300,000), *Zateinik* (cir. 100,000) and for the blind and hard of seeing, *Sovetsky Shkolnik*.

These magazines are highly popular among those who have already resolutely decided on what field of knowledge to pursue. Each of the magazines has its own special features and its own form of presenting the material. *Yuni Tekhnik*, a magazine for young technicians, has its own "patent bureau" which examines inventions by children and young people. Through representation of the magazine the young inventors receive author's certificates. *Yuni Naturalist* has a section called the 'Why' Club which answers the readers' most complicated questions. This magazine actively involves its readers in environmental protection and tells about the work of "green" and "blue" patrols that protect forests and water bodies. *Yuni Khudozhnik* familiarizes boys and girls with masterpieces of world and Soviet art, dishes out useful advice to aspiring artists and sponsors art contests. The miscellany *Zateinik* presents to the readers new games, amusements, scripts for school shows, songs, and ideas for fancy-dress balls.

All the above-listed magazines appear once a month and are up to 140 pages in length. But in an age of avalanche-like growth of information a person wants to receive this information as quickly as possible. And the young citizen does receive it every day through the radio news programme Young Pioneers' Dawn and through 28 newspapers which are put out in the languages other than Russian in all the Soviet republics and in a number of autonomous republics on the republican level magazines similar to *Vesyolye Kartinki*, *Murzilka* and *Pioner* are printed.



Kostyor magazine

Pionerskaya Pravda, a biweekly national newspaper for kids with a circulation of more than nine million copies, will soon turn 60. It provides brief and readable information on important events and occurrences throughout the country and abroad and covers Young Pioneer and Komsomol activities. Like *Pioner*, *Pionerskaya Pravda* has a broad format. It contains material on science and technology, the cultural life of the country, news from the world of the cinema and sports, publishes short stories and long stories, and conducts various contests and sports competitions among its readers. Its contributors include prominent personalities in politics and public figures, scientists, cosmonauts, engineers, workers, writers and composers. *Pionerskaya Pravda* regularly sponsors an international drawing contest for children under the motto "I See the World". The newspaper, whose popularity is immense, receives several hundred thousand letters annually from its readers. Finally, it holds international displays of solidarity and friendship among children of various countries of the world.

The noble aims of Soviet children's periodicals help parents, teachers and all educational institutions to instil high morals in the coming generation, whose members will usher in the new century and be called upon to direct the destinies of their country, live in peace and make a worthy contribution to the development of world civilization. These lofty aims are served by every children's magazine, by every children's newspaper issued in the Soviet Union.

STANISLAV FURIN
Editor-in-Chief, *Pioner*.
VAAP-INFORM

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Books about Nature for Children

The planet Earth is our home. And natural environment requires thought and care on the part of Man. He must learn to use its riches without destroying them, to be provident so as not to bequeath a barren desert to his descendants.

Mankind's best minds, scholars and premiers, clergymen and teachers, are now engaged in the problem of protecting the environment. This must be a matter of concern to all who have children and grandchildren.

And what about those children and grandchildren, our descendants, who are going to be the masters of the Earth before many years pass? They are still too young and inexperienced to know good from evil, they are equally likely to grow up cruel or kind, they may take touching care of the small creatures, or may enjoy tormenting a cat, a dog or a pigeon. For it is not always that a wise adult may happen to be nearby and speak a timely word of admonition. How are they going to behave in their various encounters with nature? Who will teach them to be kind and far-sighted? What can save the future of our planet if not talented and wise books read in the formative age of childhood?

Kornei Chukovsky, one of the founders of Soviet literature for children and still a great favourite with young readers, once noted that the principal task of a children's writer is "at all costs to instil humaneness, this marvellous faculty of commiserating with another's misfortune, rejoicing at another's good fortune and feeling for another as for oneself. We must awaken, develop and strengthen in the receptive heart of the child this precious ability for compassion, the ability which makes a human being worthy of the name."

Many inspired words have been written in the Soviet Union, teaching children to be kind to all living things. Poetic pictures of the Russian countryside have been drawn for children by writers belonging to the older generation of Soviet literature: Mikhail Prishvin, Konstantin Paustovsky and Ivan Sokolov-Mikitov. Their works open the eyes of young readers to the beauty of nature, teach them to admire it and, consequently, to treasure it.

Then there emerged a group of naturalist writers. One of them, Vitaly Bianki, is the author of four books of short poetical and at the same time informative tales about animals, birds and insects. His amusing stories tell children what kind of nests birds build, what animals need tails for, which birds sing which songs, what is the purpose of the very differently arranged legs, beaks and much more. Bianki demonstrates the mutual dependence of everything in nature. For instance, in one story there is an old man who liked taking his tea with milk but refused to be friends with an owl. The owl resented this and stopped catching mice in the old man's clover field. The mice destroyed the hives of the bumble-bees, the bumble-bees stopped pollinating the clover, the cow no longer had enough fodder and the old man began going short of milk.

Yevgeny Charushin, who lived in Leningrad, was both an artist and a writer. Back in the thirties he published a book called *Stories About Animals* which was illustrated with his own charming drawings. About the same time Boris Zhitkov wrote his popular stories *About an Elephant*, *A Mongoose*, and *A Wolf*, Vera Chaplina published *Zoo Babies* and Olga Pewvskaya *Kids and Cubs*. All these books tell about animals' ways and habits, making them understandable to children.

Writer Sladkov was Vitaly Bianki's pupil and follower in children's literature. His book *The Land of Solar Flame* describes deserts and dry steppeland; *Dawn Over Clouds* introduces the young reader to the wild life of mountainous regions. Many of Sladkov's books are illustrated with the author's own photographs. His writings are very popular with young nature lovers. For the book *Underwater Newspaper* Sladkov was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation.

Much useful information about nature is contained in Nadezhda Nadezhdina's books *A Brother to Every Blade of Grass* and *In Orchard and Garden*. The botanist Pavlova writes fascinating sketches about flowers and

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insects. *We Haven't Seen It, but We Shall* is the title of one of her books intended to awaken in children an interest in nature and instil hope in future discoveries.

The biologist Ivan Akimushkin writes for teenagers, while Yuri Dmitriev has written more than fifty books about nature for young readers of all ages. Among them is the two-volume *Man and Animals, The Great Book of the Forest* and the series *Our Neighbours on This Planet*, the first book of which tells about insects and spiders, the second about amphibians and reptiles, the third about mammals and the fourth about birds.

In these books he examines the role of animals in Man's life from various points of view and discusses the need for ecological balance. Dmitriev tells his young readers about the efforts being made by people to save species that are in danger of extinction and about the newest methods of protecting our neighbours on this planet, including the use of satellites.

These and many other books penned by different writers seek to instil in their young readers a loving and protective attitude to all living things on earth.

Of course, books by themselves, without the active support of parents and school teachers, cannot cope with this great task. But the problem is all-important, and it concerns not only children, not one country, but our entire "home" which is called the planet Earth.

VLADIMIR MEERZON
VAAP-INFORM

The Shortest Route

Continued from page 24

selection is the relevancy of the topic and its originality. The schoolchildren must be among those immersed in one of the more complex fields of modern science. And, without doubt, consideration is given to the wishes of those to whom the series is addressed. Although the books are recurrent winners of Znanie Society nation-wide contests for the best works of scientific and technical literature and of prizes awarded by the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements for the best editing work, the greatest prize of them all is the schoolchildren's recognition.

Academician Igor Petryanov-Sokolov, the series' editor-in-chief, along with two other members of the editorial board, Academicians Ivan Knunyants and Alexei Narochnitsky, carefully sort through the mail sent by the readers to the editorial offices, read the comments on the books and study the interests of the readers. In the letters, they very often encounter requests for a reprint of a favourite book, specific suggestions for improving the editions, or thought-provoking ideas.

Some time to come, Pedagogika Publishers plan to arrange meetings between the scientists and schoolchildren. There is already a precedent for such type of contact—schoolchildren have met with the authors of the *Children's Encyclopaedia*. Direct communication can be of enormous benefit to both: for the scientists, such contact provides the opportunity for gauging the popularity of a potential book; for the schoolchildren, the chance to hear about it. Each new book of the series is impatiently awaited, and not only by Soviet boys and girls. The books of the series are eagerly purchased by foreign publishers. At the 1983 Moscow International Book Fair, publishing rights of the series were bought by publishing firms from Japan, Bulgaria, Mexico and other countries.

As the interest in this series is large, the books entering it must be entertaining and understandable to children of the entire world.

Soon to be released as part of the series is a book by Vitaly Kostomarov, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, entitled *A Life of a Language*, and *The Great Law* by Academicians Igor Petryanov-Sokolov and Dmitry Trifonov. New discoveries by leading Soviet scientists are awaiting their turn. One can only envy the schoolchildren—to them, the road to the achievements of science has become open and accessible.

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The Endless & Difficult Road

Children's Encyclopaedias in the USSR

12-Volume edition of Children's Encyclopaedia

All kinds of different-shaped books are laid out on the table. Some are thick and some are thin, there are black and white ones and there are colourful ones, and some of them are old, others new. There are children's encyclopaedias in two, three, ten and twelve volumes, and fat dictionaries and thin, bright pocket dictionaries. All this is what the library of the Children's Book House in Moscow has to offer.

The whole story of the Children's Encyclopaedia is contained in this impressive collection of books.

The thirst for knowledge in post-revolutionary Russia was particularly great. This was conditioned by the fact that large-scale construction began in the country. To be literate meant to be a valued worker and a needed specialist, and, of course, everyone tried to give their children an education. This was dictated by the very life and new opportunities opening up before people. Efforts were made as early as the 1920s to publish a new children's encyclopaedia, but in the prevailing conditions and with the small number of people who wrote for children then, nothing much came of them. Things went no further than the compilation of a glossary and some booklets.

In the 1930s, Detizdat (Children's Publishers) tried to publish a Children's Encyclopaedia. The plans for the volumes were ready, and the first hundred articles had been prepared. The first, trial volume came out in 1937, but, at that, everything came to a halt. In 1939, Detizdat gave young readers an encyclopaedia for three to six-year-olds which was thought up and compiled by the remarkable children's writer Boris Zhitkov. This large book written in the person of an inquisitive and lively little boy was called *What I Saw*, Zhitkov himself explained that he decided to write in the person of a pre-school child in order not to use words and expressions which were difficult to understand. Like a tuning fork, the age of the hero-cum-story teller allowed the writer to check every phrase out loud.

Boris Zhitkov's experiment was taken up, and other writers also began to create various encyclopaedic books for children. The names of Vitaly Bianki, who wrote *The Woodland Newspaper*, and Mikhail Ilyin, who wrote *Tales of What Is Around You*, as well as those of a number of other Soviet children's writers are inseparable from the history of the popular-science and instruction literature of an encyclopaedic nature. All the same, the current Soviet Children's Encyclopaedia was first released by the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences Press only between 1959 and 1963, and consisted of ten bulky volumes bound in yellow calico.

Of course, the main thing about the Encyclopaedia is that it gives an

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idea of the complexity and grandeur of the world created by man. It follows a thematic principle instead of a dictionary-like one, and every volume contains a compact picture of the unity of mankind in the striving for freedom and knowledge without restricting itself to the European civilizations, which is a traditional feature of Western publications.

Each volume of the Encyclopaedia is devoted to one theme, such as The Earth, Plants and Animals, Man, The History of Human Society, Literature and Art, and so on. In addition to the articles on this or that subject, every volume has a list of the most important pieces of information, a bibliography, and name and subject indexes.

This Children's Encyclopaedia is not descriptive, but continually urges the reader to try things for himself, such as making a herbarium, gathering a collection of minerals, or making a primitive telescope.

At the end of 1969, Prosveshchenie (Education) Publishers in Moscow put out a second edition of the Encyclopaedia, which this time consisted of twelve volumes. Having done so, it immediately passed the baton to the newly-founded Pedagogika (Pedagogics) Publishers.

The third, also a twelve-volume edition of the Children's Encyclopaedi, ahad a print of 520,000 and preserved the thematic principle in its structure. The editor-in-chief of all three editions of the Encyclopaedia was A. Markushevich, Vice President of the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. The third edition contained considerably more information than the first two, and more topics, the answers were more thorough, the number of the illustrations was greater and their quality better. In the second edition illustrative material formed 12.7 per cent of the content, whereas in the third edition this had grown to 28 per cent. Around 700 colour photographs, reproductions, drawings, geographic and historical maps, and rare photographic documents help the reader to understand more deeply and acquire a more practical idea of the content of each volume.

Many people take part in the preparation of the Encyclopaedia and include scientists and cultural workers—there are more than 900 contributors in all, including 57 members and corresponding members of the USSR Academy of Sciences. There are 30 members of branch academies such as the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Academy of Social Sciences and the Academy of Fine Arts, 238 Doctors of Sciences and Professors, and important journalists, artists, educators and writers.

The principle of the publication remains to attract direct participants and eye-witnesses to important events, so that young readers obtain information 'first hand', and not in accounts.

The twelve-volume Children's Encyclopaedia is aimed at readers of middle to upper school age.

Encyclopaedias for younger schoolchildren are another matter, for these children are not able to read a thick volume from cover to cover and here the encyclopaedic dictionary is called on to give inquisitive children a selective answer to any question on the meaning of individual words or concepts.

Pedagogika Publishers have twice (in 1968 and from 1975 to 1978) released an encyclopaedia called *What Is This*? *Who Is This*? for 9 to 11-year-old children. In 1968 it came out in two volumes, the second edition was in three volumes.

The subject matter of the three-volume edition gives the beginners the opportunity to obtain answers to questions they may have concerning all areas of knowledge, be it in the field of technology, natural sciences or the humanities. There are around 1,000 explanations set out in alphabetical order, which helps the reader to find the anwer to his question quickly and trains him to use reference literature. Every word is turned into a narrative, journalistic article or businesslike description.

There are also editions for teenagers, in which words are explained out of context. There are thematic encyclopaedic dictionaries for young artists, farmers, chemists, astronomers, geographers, students in local lore, technicians and sportsmen.

The Detskaya Literatura (Children's Literature) Publishers put out a whole series of beautiful encyclopaedic dictionaries, each written by one author and aimed at eight to ten-year-old readers. They have been published for the last twenty years and number around twenty-five titles. Each such dictionary contains a few words which are needed to cover and reveal some capacious concept. Every word constitutes the title of an account or an article. Many dictionaries are subtitled : "An Encyclopaedic Dictionary. From A to Z With All The Stops, the 'stops' all forming a single whole. The word-terms open up before the child a set of phenomena, which together form an overall leading concept. For example, 'wood', 'desert', 'kitchen garden', 'cosmos', 'transport', and 'man'. As a rule, each of these thin, colourful booklets starts with an alphabetical index which also serves as a list of contents. Many of the dictionaries finish with game material such as quizzes, entertaining questions and tasks.

Yet, even so, this type of encyclopaedic dictionary, like various other publications for children, has not yet become fixed.

Mankind's scientific knowledge is increasing and school curricula are changing. With this, the tasks of encyclopaedias also alter.

The quest goes on.

VLADIMIR MEYERZON
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Tadjik Children's Literature

"An overseas visitor to Tadjikistan once remarked: 'Your children carry themselves as though each child wears a royal crown.' The children of our republic, as do all Soviet children, wear not a royal crown, but a crown of happiness, care and love. For them we open a multitude of fine kindergartens and creches, summer camps and schools, Pioneer Palaces, libraries and cinemas. For them we publish many kind, wise and jolly books in beautiful bindings."

We are talking with the vice-chairman of the committee for literature for children and young people, of the Tadjikistan Writers' Union, holder of the H.C. Andersen Diploma, Honoured Cultural Worker of Tadjikistan, children's poet Ubaid Radjab.

U.R. In recent years, Central Asian, and in particular Tadjik children's literature, has taken a great stride forward. Much poetry and prose for children has been published in our periodicals; every year the republic's publishers "Irfon" and "Maorif" release many new books, and there is a host of poets and writers for children working in our republic, whose books are favourites with children of all ages. Particularly worthy of mention are Gulchekhry Suleimanova, Nugmon Razik, Amindjon Shukukhi, Bolty Ortikov, Mavdjuda Khakimova, Nariman Bako-zadeh, Ali Bobodjon, Bobo Khodji, to name a few. Their books have been published not only in our republic, but also in Moscow, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Latvia, the Ukraine, Turkmenia and Moldavia. This bears witness to the great popularity of Tadjik children's literature.

Stories of working and workers provide one of the main themes in Tadjik children's poetry. The poet paints a picture of Man the creator of beauty and transformer of the world.

Cor. In your long poem "The Earth", you represent it as a spiritual, thinking being . . .

U.R. True. You see, the poet must treat every object or event which he portrays as a living entity; he must imbue it with life, dress it in individual characteristics. Such poetry is especially popular with young readers. It is noteworthy that Tadjik prose and poetry for children has retained the didactic tradition, which is a basic feature of Tadjik classical literature, with its thousand-year-old history.

Cor. Please tell us of current genres and themes in Tadjik children's prose.

U.R. At present, long and short stories analysing the inter-relationships of children and adults, and the behaviour of children in various situations. As, for example, in the stories of Bolty Ortikov.

Abdumalik Bakhori's "The Cream at the Edge of the Cup", and Bakhrom Firuz's "You're Not Alone" stand out among stories devoted to the spiritual development of the rising generation.

The theme of the heroism, patriotism and selflessness of children and adolescents is one of the basic themes of Soviet children's literature, and is the pivot of Mirsaid Mirshakar's story, "Lenin's Smile". Mirsaid Mirshakar is a national poet of Tadjikistan and a laureate of the USSR State Prize, Ibod Fayzulayev's "Story about the Green Forest" is devoted to the Great Patriotic War of the USSR against Nazi Germany.

That the artistic mastery of our writers is continually improving is shown by the fact that Tadjik books are being translated into many languages both within and beyond the USSR.

Cor. What about the child-readers? What are their interests and tastes nowadays?

U.R. That reminds me of the words of the great Russian writer, Maxim Gorky, He said that to write for children is the same as to write for adults, only better. The writer for children is responsible for the formation of the young soul.

We are striving to develop a feeling of fairness and friendship in younger children. The young reader nowadays expects to read about actual conflicts, real heroic deeds and strong characters. It is essential not only to be able to talk to your readers, but also to know what to say to them. Children of 9—14 age group are the chief target of children's literature, but we are not forgetting pre-schoolers. We need stories which give material for games. Why? Because for children of this age game is life itself. Whereas teenagers expect from us subtle, inventive and serious books. And there is one more very real demand on writers; children's literature fulfils its educational role only when it conveys the aesthetic.

Cor. One last question. Is it true that a writer for

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Daghestan, Komi, Chuvashia

". . Childhood passes, but it
bequeaths to us,
A legacy of childhood songs,
Its memory remains for ever."

With these lines Rasul Gamzatov, the outstanding contemporary Soviet poet, expresses a feeling known to every grown-up. Today his poetry is well known both in the Soviet Union and abroad. And it is hard to believe that a few decades ago some of the peoples inhabiting Daghestan (now an Autonomous Republic within the Russian Federation) had no written language of their own. Now books, magazines and newspapers are published and there are radio broadcasts in ten national languages of the Republic. Today Daghestan has its own writers and poets, and plays by Avar, Kumyk, Darghin, Lak and Daghestan playwrights are on at five state theatres.

Daghestan means "the country of mountains". About thirty nationalities live in the Republic with its comparatively small territory of 50.3 thousand square kilometres. Mstislav Stingl, the Czechoslovak ethnographer and traveller, who visited more than 100 countries, wrote: "Wherever more than one nationality lives in the same state, intranational friction arises. But in Daghestan about thirty nationalities live in peace and friendship."

The universal expansion of the Russian language in the Republic was accompanied by the flourishing of local languages. The poems of the Avar poet Rasul Gamzatov, who holds the honorary title of People's Poet of Daghestan, of Rashid Rashidov, a Darghin and winner of the international Hans Christian Andersen Prize, and of Nuratdin Yusupov, a Lak and winner of the State Prize of the Russian Federation are national in both form and content, which imparts to them the unique colouring of national traditions. Grandpa and Grandma, the favourite, wise confidants of kids, are often to be found in their verses. They, as Rasul Gamzatov wrote, "consider their own honour to be higher than all the summits of the East". The writers of Daghestan well remember the words of the Soviet Russian children's author, Boris Zhitkov, that a child is a synopsis of the adult man. Thus typical of the children's literature of this multinational republic is its ability to "converse" with children, a characteristic that has distinguished good literature throughout the ages. The heroes of books by Rashid Rashidov, whose work has won international recognition, teach children kindness, and faith in good things:

"We will easily agree about the price
What, no money?
You give me a smile,
That's better than anything."

KOMI

The written literary language of Komi was founded by the missionary Stefan Permsky. The first old texts date back to the 14-16th centuries. Russian scholars began to record Komi folklore as early as the 19th century. And it was these oral works—fairy tales, legends, songs—that were to become one of the sources of Komi literature, whose foundations were laid in the last century by Ivan Kuratov.

A hundred years ago they wrote about the Komi people as follows: "This tribe is swiftly moving towards degeneration, and it can be said with confidence that it has not long to tread this wide world, that it is already living its last moments." This prophesy has never been so far from the truth as today.

The economy of the Komi Autonomous Republic, which is part of the Russian Federation, is developing at a rapid pace. Apart from the wood industry, machine-building plants and local industry enterprises were constructed. Part of the production is exported.

Cultural development began after the Civil War (1918-1922). Schools were opened, the first native-language newspapers published, and the national theatre founded. It was in the 20s that Komi literature for children began to develop. It was at this very time that ABCs and textbooks were compiled, and verses and stories written for them. With their help children learnt to read and write. Authors wrote of the transformations taking place, of the struggle between the new and the old. In the 20s and 30s, it was poetry that predominated. Today prose and drama occupy a worthy place alongside poetry.

Recently an anthology of short stories was published under the title *Here on the Inva.* It contains works by the young and older generations of writers, including Ivan Minin, Valerian Batalov, Vasily Isayev, Semyon Fedoseev

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Timofei Fadeev, Valentin Kuchevoi. They write sincerely, with love and kindness, of the people of their native land. And Komi children are brought up on these feelings which are always highly valued by the people.

CHUVASHIA

In the history of Chuvash culture there exists a personality who warrants no other name than that of enlightener. We have in mind Ivan Yakovlev. In the middle of the last century he opened schools, introduced innovations into the educational system for teaching the children of the non-Russian peoples of Russia in their native language, created a new Chuvash written language and got a publishing house going. Ivan Yakovlev was a mathematician and philologist; it is with him that the school of Chuvash 19th century writers begins. And he wrote literature for children. The famous Soviet author, Marietta Shaginyan, said of him, 'Ivan Yakovlev was a true son of his people, one of those whom history carries aloft, concentrating in him as a representative of his people, the nervous energy, intellect and character of many hundreds of his fellow men."

In our day Ivan Yakovlev's motherland is called the Chuvash Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and forms part of the Russian Federation. Chuvashia today is a republic with a highly developed industry and agriculture. In Cheboksary, the capital of Chuvashia, the doors of the university, agricultural and teachers' training colleges are opened wide to young people.

The paper *The Young Pioneer's Call* in the Chuvash language is published specially for children. On its pages, as on the pages of books and journals put out by the Chuvash publishers, children can meet with their favourite national writers and poets: Alexei Talvir, Mikhail Yukhma, Eva Lisina. Books by these three authors—*Anyar*, *The Children of Senyal* and *The Children of Purneske and of His Friends* were recently published in Moscow in the Russian language. To the young dreamer Marina (*The Children of Senyal*) her home village is a fairyland; while the rivers, lakes and leafy groves were full of magic for the young town children (*Anyar*); finally, a real fairy-tale are the extraordinary adventures of Purneske. The Chuvash land is depicted in it as fabulous, and its heroes speak a fabulous language.

The traditions of the national literature for children, founded by Ivan Yakovlev, with its roots going back to folklore, are continued by the contemporary children's writers of Chuvashia. The essence of these traditions amounts to teaching a young child to love beauty, and to stimulate in him interest in and love for his homeland.

Tadjik Children's Literature

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children must be a man, made wise by his long experience of life?

U.R. The proverb says, "Children are more like their times than like their parents." We have found that young people can also write fine children's books. For example here in our republic we have Muhammad Goib, Dzhura Khashimi, Latofat Kondjayev and others.

Although the range of children's interests changes, the following do not change: their eternal inquisitiveness, their interest in the world around them, their will to get to know the world and to find their place in it. Today they are children; tomorrow they will take our place.

Interviewed by MARINA NEKRASOVA, member of the Soviet Writers' Union.

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Kazakhstan: A Nation of Poets-singers

My nation is a nation of poets-singers. Just as there is no man without a name of his own, there is no Kazakh without his own song. Every child grows among songs, legends, folktales and books.

Kazakh written literature for children has its roots deep in our rich, traditional oral folklore.

The founder of Kazakh children's literature was our great teacher and enlightener, poet and translator Ibrai Altynsarin. He produced brilliant classics of poetry and prose for children. In his *Kirghiz Reader* (1879) he included some of his own verses and fables in prose.

Kazakh Soviet children's literature is the offspring of the Great October Revolution. It was not fully formed in one year, but gathered strength gradually, step by step. Before the October Revolution, its writers and poets were few and far between, and in the whole of Kazakhstan there was not a single publication for children, not even a magazine or a paper. In the beginning of the twenties two journals appeared simultaneously—*Leninshil Zhas* and *Pioner*. They carried material written especially for children and young people.

By the time of the outbreak of the Second World War, collections of short stories, several novels, tales in verse, and adaptations from folk legends, had been published. During the pre- and post-war periods, professional writers appeared, writing exclusively for children, mainly for the 9—14 age group.

The fifties and early sixties saw the appearance of a large number of talented writers for children, such as B. Sokpakbayev, M. Alimbayev, M. Jamanbalinov, A. Duisenbiev, K. Murzaliev, N. Gabdullin, K. Idrisov, M. Gumerov and others. This was a time of burgeoning growth and development in all genres of Kazakh literature for children of all ages. There was a great enrichment and broadening of subject matter. The main theme during those years was the constructive labour of the Soviet people, the defence of world peace, and a happy and hopeful future for our children and for all the children of the world.

Our talented writers who have created works of art worthy of contemporary children were beginning to win acclaim throughout the Soviet Union precisely at that time. Their better works were being translated into Russian, and thence, or in some cases directly from the original, into the languages of our fraternal Soviet peoples and into foreign languages.

National periodicals play a major role in children's literature's development. The children's journal *Baldyrgan* (The Seedling), founded in 1958, has become not only a popular magazine, and a sincere friend giving wise advice to Kazakh children, but has been generally accepted as the centre for the development of Kazakh literature addressed to 7—10 year-olds.

Contemporary Kazakh literature for children has matured to such an extent that it now speaks to children through poetry, prose and drama of all the problems of society and civic life.

Our major poet, Utebai Turmanjanov, creates his ringing verses, full of the joy of discovery, such as "The Bees and the Ants".

Apparently inadvertently he guides the child to an understanding of the deep closeness of work and friendship, to the understanding that neither can exist independently, without the other, any more than can the words of a line of poetry.

Kazakh literature is now on the way to new successes; all the conditions are favourable for its further flowering.

In 1975, Zhalyn Publishers was established to issue books for children and young people. Prior to this, in 1969, the literary miscellany *Zhalyn* (The Flame) and in 1960 the journal *Bilim Zhane Enbek* (Knowledge and Labour) were started. From 1965 onwards there was the annual calendar *All Year Round*. It is certain that all this has played a vital role in the development of Kazakh literature for children, and in the maturing of its young authors.

Every year, Zhalyn Publishers releases some 250 titles in the Kazakh and Russian languages. Kazakh children read the finest gems from the treasure house of Soviet and world literature, in their own native language. And those creations of Kazakh writers that stand the test of time are translated into many languages.

MUZAFAR ALIMBAYEV

poet, honoured cultural worker of Kazakhstan, member of the committee on literature for children and young people of the Soviet Writers' Union, member of the board of the Writers' Union of Kazakhstan.

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Elar Kuus and His Children's Stories

One of my son's most favourite books is *Our Otter* by Estonian writer Elar Kuus. This amusing story of a tamed river, Otter, was first published in 1959. Since then several generations of Soviet children have learned from its heroes that every living being on earth should be treated with care and understanding.

In all of Kuus's stories, one detects a great knowledge of and sensitivity to nature. Among his better known works are a collection of stories entitled *Blizzard*, the plays, *Ati, the Wiz* and *Mother's Kiss*, which have been produced as puppet shows, and the books *The Sun's Family*, *Youthful Adventures*, *When Grandad Was a Boy*, *The Cricket's Key*, and *The Marksman*.

In his books, more often than not written with the beginner reader in mind, Kuus avoids clouding the stories with too much information at once, yet he does introduce enough interesting details to teach the young reader about the lives of animals, birds and plants, about such natural phenomena as the changing of seasons, the solar system, the magical transformations of water and much else. All this informtion is relayed in the form of legends, tales, and parables, which are saturated with the desire to do good, with love and respect for children.

Elar Kuus is a brilliant educator. He believes that every children's book should contain a moral, and that this moral should be skillfully concealed. Applying this principle, Kuus does not waste words in order to appear ultra-modern; his style can be characterized as light narration always speckled with humour, even if he talks of serious things. A wise teacher emerges from the stories included in the collection, *Youthful Adventures*. These stories are set in the Soviet Far East, the Ukraine and other parts of the Soviet Union and, what is more, each of them combines a lesson in history, geography and natural history of that particular region.

Kuus' favourite genre is the fairy-tale, in which he abundantly uses the most well-known story-telling methods. Apart from the little gems of tales, legends and parables contained in *The Sun's Family* and *The Cricket's Key*, Kuus has also contributed to the treasure chest of Estonian children's literature the tale *Mother's Kiss*, in which a mother's kiss turns out to be the best weapon in the struggle of three young rabbits against a mean wolf.

A rich imagination is what makes a fairy-tale great. But a person not capable of fantasizing could not have depicted history as skilfully as it is done in the book. *The Marksman*, which whisks the reader away to the distant past. *The Marksman* is a story about primitive society presented in a form accessible to children. Although perhaps open to criticism from pedants, it wonderfully carries out its task of awakening in children an interest in the times of lore, conducting them into a realm which might otherwise seem alien, boring and, in sum, simply irrelevant to the present.

Elar Kuus' interests go beyond nature, geography and history. To this list must be added art, literature, psychology, the cinema and travel. At eighty years of age the writer still maintains a lively interest in all aspects of life, in science news and in art, and in everything going on in the world.

HELJO ERNESAKS
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Lithuania's Most Popular Poet

In Lithuania there is not a single school or kindergarten where the children do not know Anselmas Matutis's verses and poems by heart. He himself has repeatedly been convinced of this. No sooner does he begin to recite his poems than the children in the audience immediately join in, loudly repeating the words.

The poet taught school for a quarter of a century. This gave him a deep insight into child psychology, an understanding of the world of children's interests. His first verses came out in 1937, when he was only fourteen. The first collection of his poetry was published at the end of the 1940's. Today Anselmas Matutis has over thirty books to his credit. His more than forty years of creative writing have now been crowned with *The Woodpecker's Smithy*, a collection of works in diverse genres : poems, fables, songs and stories. Intended for readers of very different age-groups, the book opens with verses for children of pre-school age and closes with fables so profound that they are enjoyed by grownups, too.

Of late the poet has been writing a lot for very young children. *The Giant's Spoon* is a book for pre-schoolers and it is very popular in Lithuania. It skilfully reveals how the child's boundless fantasy combines with his awareness of the material nature of the world.

Anselmas Matutis

Matutis knows and loves nature and the Lithuanian countryside. It is not fortuitous that the theme of a child's links with nature is traceable in all his works. Most modern children are city-dwellers and know very little about woodland life. Anselmas Matutis not only shows children the beauty of the forest, he also acquaints them in a most vivid manner with the flora and fauna of Lithuania.

Today the poet is particularly worried over the problem of protecting the natural environment. He takes the fairy-tale as his ally in defence of Nature. In his book *Forest Manikins*, the gnomes tell the children how much harm is done to the forest. The forehead of the gnome, Silinukas, is very wrinkled by "worries". The Red Worry is fire, the Blue Worry is the poison that kills little fishes in the rivers, and the Black Worry is the smoke from industrial enterprises that is smothering the trees.

Hollowkin is a story in verse about a forest which is beset by a great trouble : a merciless woodcutter, an impudent poacher, is ravaging the forest. Hollowkin, a tiny boy who has been asleep for a hundred years, wakes up and begins to fight the enemies of the forest. With the aid of the birds and animals he overcomes all enemies. By posing such "adult" problems in his poems for children the poet prepares his readers for the future; he cultivates in them a civic awareness of their responsibility for the future of Nature. Who knows, perhaps when the child has become an adult he will not be indifferent to nature, thanks to the complaint of the gnome and the selfless bravery of Hallowkin. Impressions gained in childhood very often leave their marks throughout life.

GRAZINA SKABEIKITE
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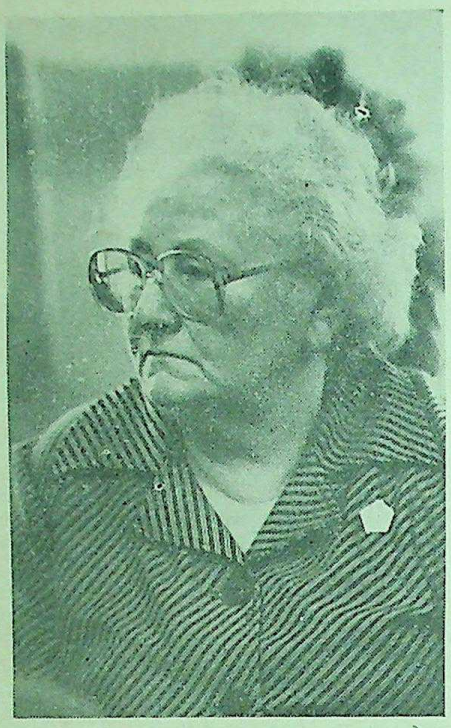
Dear Zenta Ergle

The Latvian writer, Zenta Ergle, receives thousands of letters from children from all over the Soviet Union. Here is one of them: "Dear Zenta Ergle, our class discussed your book *The Kids of Our Neighbourhood*. It is so interesting that when you read it you imagine that you are also taking part in the action...."

The Kids of Our Neighbourhood was Zenta Ergle's first book. Since its release in 1956 the writer has produced thirty more books, among which are stories, travel notes, fairy-tales and plays.

Zenta Ergle suffered an unkind fate. A prolonged illness confined her to a hospital bed from which she endured a long separation from friends and family, including her son and daughter. It was during her period of confinement that the thought occurred to her to undertake the writing of some kind of story that would soothe her children, deflect their attention from their mother's illness, get them to play again, engross them, provide a park for their creativity. Ergle began a story, adding new chapters every day. That is how *The Kids of Our Neighbourhood* was born. Its heroes are young residents of Riga who live in the same block of flats. Aided by adults, the kids succeed in fixing up their courtyard and organize their own club, but not without a hail of events, conflicts and humorous situations.

The Kids of Our Neighbourhood was later translated into many languages, and in 1960 it was made into a play which was staged at the Moscow Children's Theatre. In the meanwhile, young readers were impatiently awaiting a sequel. Children from



Zenta Ergle

Sverdlovsk wrote: "Dear Zenta Ergle, could you please write a book about kids playing Indians....". Ergle heeded the children's request, coming out with *Now That Was a Summer*! In it the heroes from the author's previous book spend their summer vacation in a seaside town. At the camp Indian games are organized and a conflict with the leader of the local gang of boys arises, only to be solved when the two warring groups together help to put out a forest fire, cementing friendship between them.

The author often receives letters impatiently entreating her to pick up her pen again: "....I hope your new book comes out real soon. I am sure it will be very, very interesting." And Zenta Ergle is not in a position to deny readers' hopes and expectations. Soon to appear was her third work, *Do You Think I'm a Failure?*, about a young boy named Peteris who encounters unpleasantries in everything he does.

"Those boys who you write about in your books are lucky", a girl wrote to the author. "Can it be that you'll never write anything about us, girls?" Perhaps it was this letter, or possibly many others as well, that prompted the author to invent a plot in which the main hero was a girl. Such a story is *It Began in a Flower House*. The adventures of the young heroes begin in Latvia, and end up in Georgia. This thrilling story was followed by another, *Uno and the Three Musketeers*, about three friends, Porthos, Aramis and Athos, who after reading loads of adventure stories decide to imitate the gallant musketeers. The boys' merry-making is interrupted by the appearance of an unfamiliar boy who surpasses the musketeers in their erudition. The four help the police to apprehend a group of wharf-side blackmarketeers. The biggest surprise, however, is still to come. Uno, their helpmate, turns out to be a girl.

Zenta Ergle's plots are centered on action, romantic events and entertaining adventures that involve the heroes in dramatic confrontations, which are then unwound, putting a happy ending to the story. Her talent for revealing the psychology of children and for creating excitingly tense action has repeatedly amazed young readers.

Zenta Ergle's books are entertaining. But it is also in line to mention their educational role. For example, in the story *Between Us, Girls* the readers follow the unwinding of interesting events and encounter courageous heroes. They are also introduced to problems, such as: Is it permissible for a girl to humiliate herself in front of a boy whom she likes? Ought a boy to be dishonest with a girl if they have become friends? And in general, what does honour mean? Honest conduct? What is true friendship? Love?

YAZEP OSMANIS

VAAP-INFORM

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NEW BOOKS FROM THE USSR

At the Cross-roads of Four Cultures

Yuri Roerich's Unique Dictionary

It is practically impossible to imagine the history of cultural relations between Russia and India in the 20th century without taking account of the vast artistic and scholarly endeavour of the Roerich family, the father Nikolai (1874—1947), an outstanding artist, talented poet and original thinker, and his two sons, the orientalist Yuri (1902—1960) and the painter Svyatoslav (b. 1904). The creative achievements of this remarkable family attract great interest in the Soviet Union, an interest which is further stimulated by new publications on their work. In particular, last year the almanac *Sovremennaya Dramaturgiya* (*Modern Drama*), Iskusstvo Publishers, carried a play by Nikolai Roerich "Mercy", which was written in 1917 with a foreword by Svyatoslav Roerich. The same year also saw the publication of Volume I of the *Tibetan-Russian-English Dictionary with Sanscrit Parallels*, which was compiled by Yuri Roerich.

This unique work is being prepared for the press by the leading oriental studies publishing house—the Central Oriental Section of Nauka Publishers, USSR Academy of Sciences. The dictionary consists of 6 volumes, to be published over a period of two and a half years in an edition of 6,200 copies.

Yuri Roerich, a major expert in the history and culture of South and Central Asia, studied Indo-Tibetan contacts in ancient times and in the Middle Ages. Specialists well know his monograph *The Legend of Rama in Tibet*. From 1949 to 1957 he headed the Indo-Tibetan seminar in Kalimpong. After his return to the country of his birth, Yuri Roerich was appointed Head of the Culture and Philosophy department at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He engaged in intensive research work, lectured at Moscow University and also resumed work on the dictionary he had started back in the 20s. His untimely death interrupted his work on the dictionary and it looked as though it would never be seen in print, since the main body of the lexical material collected by the scholar was based on data pertaining to the 20s and 30s, and he had barely started work on the modification and the selection of Russian equivalents (the initial version of the dictionary was Tibeto-English).

But Yuri Roerich's colleagues and pupils were determined to complete the work of their friend and teacher. The work of incorporating new lexical material, citing additional meanings of words already included, and tracing the etymology of idioms and phrases was undertaken by Yuri Parfionovich, Vilena Dylykova, Vasily Bogoslovsky, Boris Semichev, Konstantin Cheremisov, and others. As the result of their efforts Yuri Roerich's dictionary was enlarged from 65 to 80 thousand words and expressions, reflecting thereby the development of the Tibetan written language from the 7th to the mid-20th centuries, and was brought into full accord with the accepted modern standards, while the fact that it is polylingual, Sanscrit including, makes this unique publication also extremely useful for anyone who knows or is learning any one of the languages concerned.

Yuri Roerich's dictionary is clearly of tremendous value. It reveals the powerful cultural influence India has exercised on bordering countries and also how Tibetan literature has creatively adopted the classical Indian philology and philosophy. Its publication opens up new and broad opportunities for comparative studies, and is sure to stimulate the work of orientalists in this direction. It is also a major contribution to our knowledge of the cultural history of this region of the world.

Yuri Roerich's scholarly feat, which has found its consummation more than twenty years after his death, is worthy of the greatest respect. At the same time, we must give their due to all those who have undertaken to continue and complete his work, thus providing yet another manifestation of the continuity of the best traditions in Soviet oriental studies, inspired by the principles underlying scholarly ethics and loyalty to the memory of a teacher.

LEV ROZHANSKY
VAAP-INFORM

Irina Sheptunova

ESSAYS ON THE MODERN HISTORY OF AESTHETIC THOUGHT IN INDIA, Moscow, Nauka, 1984, 188 pp.

Irina Sheptunova is a leading Soviet historian of Indian art. Her monograph, *Bengali Renaissance Painting*, written in 1978, provides a comprehensive examination of the historical and conceptual basis of the most

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triking and unique phenomenon in modern Indian art. Specialists have acclaimed the album of reproductions of Amrita Sher-Gill's paintings which Sheptunova compiled. The accompanying essay on Sher-Gill's work presents to Soviet readers this brilliant Indian artist who sought to accomplish a kind of synthesis of traditional and modern pictorial devices and motifs.

Here we introduce a new major study by the Soviet indologist which organically incorporates her previous efforts.

The author rightly believes that to better understand the subject the reader must be aware of the underlying conceptual and artistic principles of traditional Indian art. This is dealt with in the first chapter of the book. Drawing upon Vedic literature, writings of the Sanskrit classics, Medieval treatises on the poetry and pictorial art, the author traces the formation of aesthetic concepts reflecting the close interrelationship between religious and philosophical thought and art that has led to the unique consistency of India's cultural traditions.

"The modern Indian culture," writes Sheptunova at the beginning of the second chapter, "was taking shape in the struggle against cultural expansion, a subtle and venturous instrument of colonial policy." The most distinctive feature of Indian culture of that period was "its remarkable mature social potential and the subordination of all creative endeavours to one major objective, the struggle for national independence." Hence the importance of studying new trends in Indian art in the context of the ideological movements that stimulated these trends. It is therefore only natural that the author dwells at length upon the activities of Rammohun Roy and the Brahmo Samaj society, the ideas of the neo-Vedic philosophers Swami Vivekananda and Aurobindo Ghosh, and especially on the manifold legacy of Rabindranath Tagore whom she calls "the symbol of Indian national culture".

Analysis of Rabindranath Tagore's theoretical views on art makes up the bulk of this chapter, and with good reason, for the Bengali Renaissance was a kind of bridge between the Middle Ages and Modern Times, of which Rabindranath Tagore was one of the chief architects. Irina Sheptunova points out the sources of Tagore's ideas, including those to be found in ancient India, focussing on Tagore's ideas which were relevant for his time, since they opposed the commercialism of the bourgeois West and tended to universality, denying nationalistic extremes yet cherishing national identity. This study is undoubtedly one of the most definitive among recent Soviet publications devoted to Tagore.

The Aesthetics of the 1930s and 1940s, the title of the third chapter, covers the theoretical works of Ananda Coomaraswamy and Mulk Raj Anand, and the aesthetic conceptions of Rabindranath Tagore, stressing the part Ananda Coomaraswamy's ideas played in forming the stereotype views of the alleged "inherent" dissimilarities between Western and Eastern art. Discussing the work of Mulk Raj Anand, a writer most read in the Soviet Union, the author underscores his affinity with Vedic philosophy, on the one hand, and his effective historicism and realism, on the other. Rabindranath Tagore's work attracts the scholar because he opposed the contraposition of the artistic cultures of West and East and did not believe in the spiritual superiority of any nation.

The fourth and concluding chapter looks at art and aesthetic thought in independent India. It gives the reader an idea of the diverse artistic trends in contemporary India—from purely traditionalists to modernists, who associate themselves with various Western schools. Special attention is given to the so-called tantrism in Indian painting and sculpture. At the same time the author identifies the increasing interest of artists and critics in the progressive concepts, a striving to overcome what she calls "the confusion before the invasion of Western avant-gardism".

Irina Sheptunova's research can be recommended not only to art historians and critics. It represents a useful source of information on the history of Indian philosophy and literature for all those concerned with the culture of this great country.

LEV ROZHANSKY
VAAP-INFORM

Alexei Sukhochev

KRISHAN CHANDAR, Nauka, Moscow, 230 pp.

The 20th-century Indian literature abounds in names of writers whose works spotlight some of the turning points in the country's history and have left a deep imprint on the nation's conscience. One of these names is Krishan Chandar (1913—1977), who wrote in Urdu, a language of rich literary traditions. Krishan Chandar wrote more than 80 books, including novels, novellas, collections of short stories and one-act plays. The writer has left a legacy that is diverse not in terms of genres only : Krishan Chandar has many faces and intonations not infrequently contradicting one another. He is famous as a keen lyric poet, as an inspired romantic rebel and an accusing satirist. Whatever method or style the writer used, from a profoundly realistic narration to international moral story, his thrust is focused on two eternal themes—man's desire to blend with nature and his conflict with the injustices of the society he lives in.

Krishan Chandar's books are admired and widely read in the USSR. His books have been translated into Russian for more than 30 years now. In all, 13 of his

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books, including novels, collections of short stories and memoirs, have come out in this country.

Recently, a book about the writer himself, the first monograph in world literature devoted to Krishan Chandar, has been published. Its author, Alexei Sukhochev, a leading Soviet authority on India and the Orient, has written many books on Indian literature. He has done much to stimulate interest in the writer among the Soviet reading public. Several of the books by the great Indian writer that have been published here in Russian were translated by Sukhochev. Sukhochev was personally acquainted with Krishan Chandar and knew first-hand the social and literary environment that had moulded the Indian writer. This circumstance has enabled the Soviet scholar to recreate the writer's integral, colourful and authentic individuality within the historical framework in which Krishan Chandar matured as a writer.

Combining elements of a scholarly study and the entertaining style of a literary biography, the monograph paints vivid pictures from the life of different classes of Indian society in the colonial and independent India.

Sukhochev puts together the pieces of Chandar's mosaic in a broad-scale panorama of 20th-century India, where the present coexists side by side with the past, where scores of tongues, rites, habits and religions mix in a fantastic melting pot.

Sukhochev provides a multitude of eloquent details that convey the ethic, geographic and regional diversity of the vast country, with its striking difference between life-styles; the reader will easily see the difference between the life in the old Muslim town of Lahore and modern, active Bombay, and delight in the scenic beauty of romantic Kashmir that has left an unfading mark on Krishan Chandar's work.

Both dramatic and routine events of the writer's life have been reconstructed by Sukhochev not only from documentary evidence, accurate beyond a doubt but still hard as facts should be, but also distilling the biographical substance from the fiction works themselves. The graphic account of the writer's childhood and teenage years, illustrated with episodes described in his autobiographic prose, makes entertaining reading.

From his early adolescence, Krishan Chandar linked his fate to the destinies of his country, which is why his chronology is, in the broad sense, identical to the biography of modern India. The biographer demonstrates how the social theme in the writer's works was gathering momentum, and how his active civic attitudes crystallised in such outstanding pieces as *The Defeat*, *When the Fields Awoke* , *The Clear Sky*, *The Children From the Dadar Bridge*, and others. Simultaneously, Sukhochev retraces the evolution of the writer's literary style, from the early romantic writings to the truly demolishing satire of the trilogy about the adventures of the Donkey, or the story "Bourbon Club" (1950s—1960s).

Numerous readers will certainly be attracted by Sukhochev's forceful and profound account of the great Indian writer.

Clara Ashrafyan

THE MEDIEVAL INDIAN CITY OF THE 13TH TO MID-18TH CENTURIES, Nauka Publishers, Moscow.

The medieval Indian city presents a complex of problems as yet unresolved by scientists. Among them is the similarity and dissimilarity between the function of the city in medieval Europe and India, the role of external factors in the "urban explosion" which began in India in the 13th century, the influence of European commercial expansion on the socio-economic development of Indian cities and towns. In her monograph Clara Ashrafyan examines all these problems, basing herself on numerous chronicles in the Persian language, which were written at the courts of the Moslem feudal lords who ruled India, the monumental Sanskrit chronicle "Rajataranghini", by Kalhana documents pertaining to economics and statistics, a number of literary works from that period, and reports by Chinese, Arab and European travellers in India.

The first chapter of the monograph acquaints the reader with the high level of development of medieval Indian cities, evidence of which is furnished by the size of the population (in this respect India far surpassed medieval Europe), the multiplicity of handicrafts and trades, and the large volume not only of internal but also of external trade carried on by the Indian merchants.

Indian cities were characterized by a complex caste system. This specific feature found reflection in the division of labour and also in the character of city planning. Clara Ashrafyan discusses the caste question and its consequences in the second chapter of her book. She compares artisan caste groups in India with European medieval guilds; as in Europe, the interests of artisans and merchants clashed with the rule of the feudal lords. This generated a great number of heretical trends, which left a deep trace not only in the ideological but also in the literary history of India.

The author gives considerable space to the problems of urban economic administration whose function was not only to satisfy the requirements of the feudal lord and his court but also to ensure the effective functioning of trade and handicrafts. The study of these problems required a painstaking investigation of a mass of financial and administrative documents as well as state and judicial archives.

Of much interest is the analysis the author provides of the social struggle in medieval Indian cities. As the individual instances of class strife from armed revolts

Continued on page 43

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Textbooks for the Developing Countries

Last January a new printing house was launched at Patrice Lumumba Friendship University (Moscow). A unique feature of the venture is that it publishes textbooks specially written for students from the developing countries. One might think that there are enough textbooks in the Soviet Union to satisfy foreign students to pursue their studies. But the University authorities rightly consider that textbooks for their charges from the developing countries should be specially tailored to the economy, legal system, climatic conditions, farming and disease control of the countries from which they come. The aim is to suit the training of foreign students to the needs of their countries. Quite apart from that, it is important that textbooks be adapted to provide clear and simple presentation of complex subjects.

University instructors have produced suitable textbooks. Among the publications issued last year are *Historical Materialism for Students from the Developing Countries*, *Tropical Soil Management*, *The Social and Economic Development of Socialism-Oriented Countries: Theory and Practice*, and *The Problem of Restructuring International Monetary and Financial Relations and the Interests of the Developing Nations*.

There are plans for an annual output of 170-odd handbooks and abstract journals in addition to nearly 250 booklets.

For the time being, print runs are relatively small, ranging from 300 to 1,000 copies, However, as many as 50,000 copies of some books may be printed. *The Atlas of the History of Medicine*, for example, is expected to have a big print run. The edition will feature about 200 illustrations with commentaries on the major advances in medicine from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

"The primary objective is to make sure that there are enough textbooks for the educational process," says Valery Berezin, director of the printing house. "Nevertheless, in a drive to make a profit we plan to bring out specially designed trade editions, notably a series devoted to outstanding Oriental philosophers with a print run of 10,000 copies."

According to the Director, one of the tasks facing the publishers is the need to find marketing outlets not only within the University framework, but also elsewhere in the Soviet Union and abroad. This will require intensive promotional work. Although the publishers are treading new ground here, orders have already been placed by the higher schools from Alma-Ata, Tashkent, Leningrad, Baku, Kishinev and Dushanbe.

A curious thing about this is that few of the higher schools that applied for these University press publications have an enrolment of foreign students. Apparently, the subject matter of a number of the text editions and the methods employed in its presentation seem to have a universal attraction. Such editions are equally valuable to Soviet students. Incidentally, one such "multipurpose" edition is *Neuropathology* by Professor Y. Martynov, D.Sc. (Medicine). The book has lately won an honorary diploma from the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education.

The new undertaking faces quite a few problems, but the 50-strong staff are enthusiastic. This seems to be one of the reasons that prompted Valery Berezin to make a bold prediction, "In the coming year the publishing house will become self-supporting and will begin to show a profit."

TATIANA OVCHARENKO
VAAP—INFORM

Religion and the Church in the USSR

There are 20,000 religious bodies and congregations of various denominations in the USSR. The Russian Orthodox Church administers 8,500-odd temples. The Moslems look after hundreds of major mosques and thousands of smaller rural and local places of worship. The faithful flock to 1,120 Roman Catholic cathedrals, 690 Lutheran churches, more than 2,000 churches of Evangelical Christian Baptists and Seventh-Day Adventists, 120 synagogues and a number of prayer houses of the smaller sects.. The Russian Orthodox Church

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publishes *Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate*, a monthly appearing in Russian and English. Jointly with the ecclesiastical academies it also brings out a yearbook *Theological Works*. Orthodox church calendars and newsletters of the Orthodox churches of the Ukraine, Hungary, Central Europe, Canada and Japan come out in mass printings. The past 15 years saw four reprints of the Bible. In 1983 alone 75,000 copies were made. The last edition of the Koran in 1983 had a print run of 40,000 copies. *The Moslems of the Soviet East* journal is regularly published in Arabic, English, French and Uzbek..

The most recent church publications in the Soviet Union include a prayer book of sheet music by the All-Union Council of the Evangelical Christian Baptists, a three-volume service-book by the Old-Believers Council, *Vazgen I—The Patriarch of All Armenians* by the Armenian Apostolic Church, etc. A big factory has been set up in 1979 in the environs of Moscow to make church paraphernalia and the utensils of worship. Training for the priesthood is provided by two Orthodox academies and three seminaries, two Roman Catholic seminaries, the Islamic Institute, the Higher Buddhist Institute and a Hebrew yeshivah. Students from 20 countries are enrolled at the ecclesiastical schools run by the Moscow Patriarchate.

This background material and a wealth of other interesting information are contained in Vladimir Kuroyedov's book *Religion and the Church in Soviet Society* issued by Politizdat publishers (Moscow) in 1984. Two editions of the book have already been released with a total print run of 400,000 copies.

The popularity of the book is due not only to the laboriously compiled up-to-date information on the status of the Church and the believers in the Soviet Union. Its chief asset is the author's interpretation, from a legal point of view, of complicated issues involved in the relationships between the Church and the Soviet authorities. The chapter devoted to documents and developments at the turn of the century is of enormous interest. Vladimir Kuroyedov gives an account of Leo Tolstoy's relations with the Dukhobors sect, whose members were able to secure the Tzar's "divine dispensation" to emigrate to America only after Tolstoy's intercession; relates about Patriarch Tikhon (Vasily Belavin), an activist of the Union of the Russian People, an offshoot of the notorious Black Hundreds gangs (xenophobic, anti-Semitic squads sponsored by the police); provides a commentary of the first decrees enacted by the Soviet government, that laid the groundwork of the current legal status of the Church in the Soviet Union, such as the "Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia" passed in November 1917 which abolished distinctions between "ruling" religion and "tolerable and intolerable" faiths, the appeal "To All Moslem Working People of Russia and the East" (November 20, 1917), "On Marriage Annulment" and "On Civil Marriage", "On the Separation of Church and State, and School and Church" (January 23, 1918), as well as laws on the family and a decree approving the introduction of civil registry offices (December 18, 1917).

Vladimir Kuroyedov's book, well supplied with statistics and factual material, makes a pioneerig study of the status of the Church and religion in Soviet society.

TAMARA TRIFONOVA
VAAP--INFORM

New Books from the USSR

Continued from page 41

to court litigation, are brought together, there emerges a very different picture from the one drawn by some specialists in the field and presenting the medieval Indian city as a harmonious social entity in which European discord was unknown. Clara Ashrafyan classifies the Bhakti movement, for example, as directed against feudalism, against the division into castes, which was a barrier in the way of economic progress. In Chapter Five, the author goes on to examine the work of famous poets who expressed the Bhakti ideology—Sheich Farid, Kabir, Namdev, Surdas, Dadu Dayal, and others. Characteristically, similar processes occurred in medieval Europe, which prompted historians to compare Bhakti with the Renaissance and the Reformation. She points out both the positive and negative features of such comparisons.

The sixth and final chapter of the monograph considers the ties between the city and the countryside in medieval India. It is the view of the author, one that is shared, incidentally, by most Soviet indologists, that the effect of commodity-money and market relations, which were concentrated in the city, was to further the property and social stratification of rural communes.

In conclusion Clara Ashrafyan offers her explanation of the reasons for the lag in the development of early capitalist relations in Indian cities as compared to Europe. She ascribes it, on the one hand, to the despotic rule of the Mogul lords in the 16th and 17th centuries, which suppressed the development of industry and commerce in India, and, on the other, to the consequences of European economic expansion policy.

LEV ROZHANSKY
VAAP-INFORM

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Poetry without the Yashmak

Modern Poetesses in the Soviet East

In recent years some of the central publishing houses of the Soviet Union, and in particular the large Khudozhestvennaya Literatura Publishers, have issued works by poetesses from the Soviet East, including Zulfia from Uzbekistan, Fazu Aliyeva, an Avar poetess, and Gulrukhsor Safiyeva from Tadjikistan.

The great Georgian poet Titsian Tabidze once remarked that poetry could be charming even from under the yashmak; the poetesses of the Soviet Eastern republics, like all the women of those lands, took off their veils fifty years ago.

The Poetry of Zulfia—the Voice of the Women of Uzbekistan

It is amazing to think that Zulfia's mother never crossed the threshold of her own home, while Zulfia herself has travelled all over the world. "My mother always reminded me of a bird with clipped wings," the famous Uzbek poetess subsequently remarked. She was born two years before the October Revolution, but she still remembers the bitter fate of women of the older generation. "At twelve years of age it was the yashmak, at fifteen—marriage, and at thirty—old age," said Zulfia, giving a concise and accurate summary of the life of an Uzbek woman.

Zulfia was fortunate—her conscious life coincided with the coming of Soviet power to Uzbekistan. Her first book was published when she was only seventeen, and it immediately brought her recognition. However, she was soon able to see that appearing in print did not necessarily make her a poet. She was later to write: "It's easy to become a poet when you are young; but only with the passage of time do you realize what a heavy burden you've shouldered." Zulfia's second book was published only seven years after her first.

Zulfia

Her meeting with the prominent Uzbek poet Khamid Alimdjan, who soon became her husband, played an important role in her life.

In 1943, during the war, *Pravda* printed her poem "Suzaneh", which became well known. In anticipation of her wedding, the young bride embroiders a suzaneh (bedspread) for her fiance, but he is killed in the war. This silk suzaneh becomes the embodiment of the girl's happier memories. The poem enjoyed tremendous popularity among Uzbek soldiers, for whom it was like news of the faithfulness of their loved ones.

"As a poet," Zulfia remarks, "I was really born during the war : all the grief and all the immense courage of our people filled up my soul and demanded some form of outlet. That was how my poem 'He Was Called Farkhad' came to be written; it is dedicated to the memory of Kabul Kari, a talented Uzbek actor, who died during the liberation of the Ukraine."

Over the years the element of philosophy has grown noticeably stronger in Zulfia's poetry and the lyrical song at times gives way to unhurried meditation. "A Woman's Luck" is a poem fairly representative of Zulfia's work; she argues with those who see women as being earmarked solely for domestic chores. Her reply is that only an outlet into the world-at-large, the world of diverse and varied interests, can make a person truly happy. In "Mushoira" she tried, in her own words, not so much to portray the traditional competition among poets in India as to show how real art can unite all people in brotherhood. "Poetry has served as a bridge of friendship between us, a means of drawing us closer together; it is a bridge of love and respect, a bridge of beauty."

In 1968 Zulfia received the Jawaharlal Nehru International Prize, and in 1970, the Lotus Prize. Her poems have been published in translation in India, Burma and Sri Lanka. Her many years of work on the magazine *The Uzbek Woman* has enabled her to feel the pulse of life in the republic and gives her much food for thought.

What is so attractive about Zulfia's poetry? In what lies her unique poetic expression? Most

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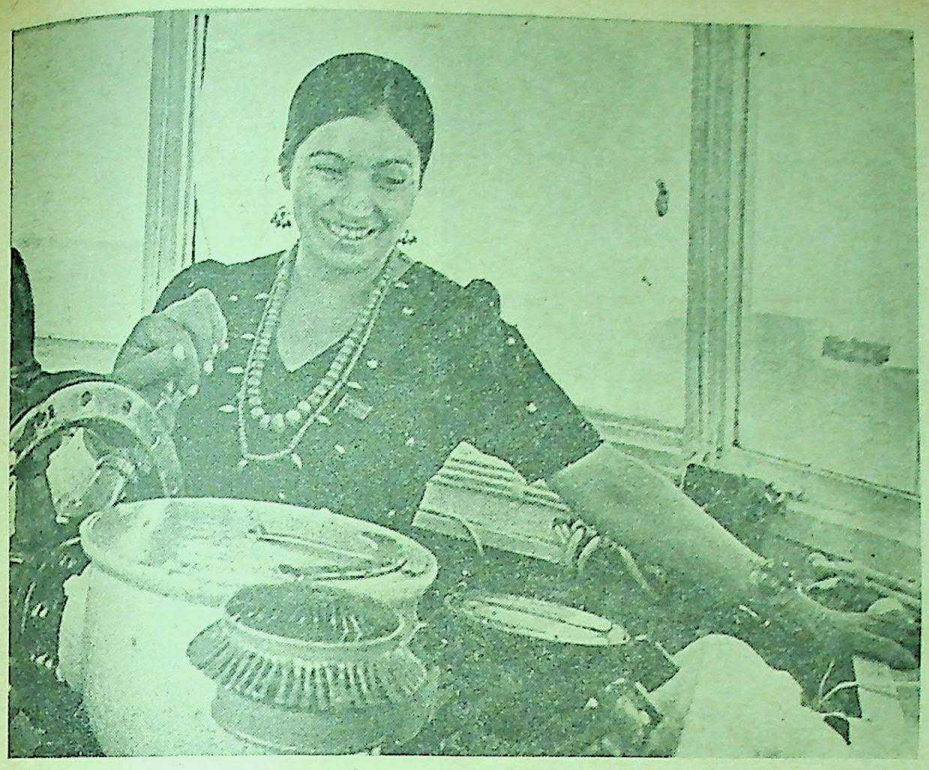

Fazu Aliyeva

Soviet critics would answer that her most important quality is the truly Uzbek character of her work; she does not avoid "unpoetic" themes, and writes with great feeling about both joy and grief.

The Love of a Highland Woman

The small Avar nation in the Caucasus has two great poets: one is the world-famous Rasul Gamzatov, and the other is Fazu Aliyeva.

This woman, who had earlier been condemned to spend her whole life toiling in her home, now determines, to a great extent, the development of her people's culture. Fazu Aliyeva is editor of the magazine *The Dagestan Woman*, a deputy to the republican Soviet and a member of the board of the Union of Writers. Her active public life is, in her own words, a necessary component of her work as a writer.

Aliyeva's central theme is a happy, shared love. Perhaps there is a trace of bitterness in her early poems and an echo of the nation's misfortune—her childhood was spent in the shadow of the war—but her mature verse is marked above all by the sheer joy of being.

Fazu Aliyeva's poetic heroines are always in love and are always loved. They are happy mothers and wives; the proud, independent disposition of a highland woman does not prevent her being feminine.

A Woman's Personality

Gulrukhsor Safiyeva belongs to the post-war generation. This young Tadjik poetess made her debut with a collection of verses entitled "Bunafsha" (The Violet), which immediately aroused considerable interest. Though she is fairly traditional in her choice of subject matter, both critics and the public appreciate the distinctive nature of her verse. Her books *The Song of the Spring*, *The Rainbow Flower* and *The Green Cradle* were published one after the other by Moscow publishing houses; and she is a winner of the Leninist Komsomol Prize.

Literary success can sometimes be something of an ordeal for a young writer, but Safiyeva has withstood this test.

Her collection *The Green Cradle* gives a sense of Safiyeva's desire to probe deep into the heart of problems and to ignore everything superficial. Her lyrical heroine is a girl of her own age, full of energy and plans for the future. She is accustomed to a way of life that a woman of the East would not even have dared dream about in earlier times. It is no accident that Safiyeva directs her gaze at history—both ancient and comparatively recent. In one of her best poems "Daughter of the East", she observes, compares and meditates; and so a new motif appears in her work: her heroine cannot be happy "if, somewhere, a woman of the East is crying".

NIKOLAI NAZAROV
VAAP- INFORM

Gulrukhsor Safiyeva

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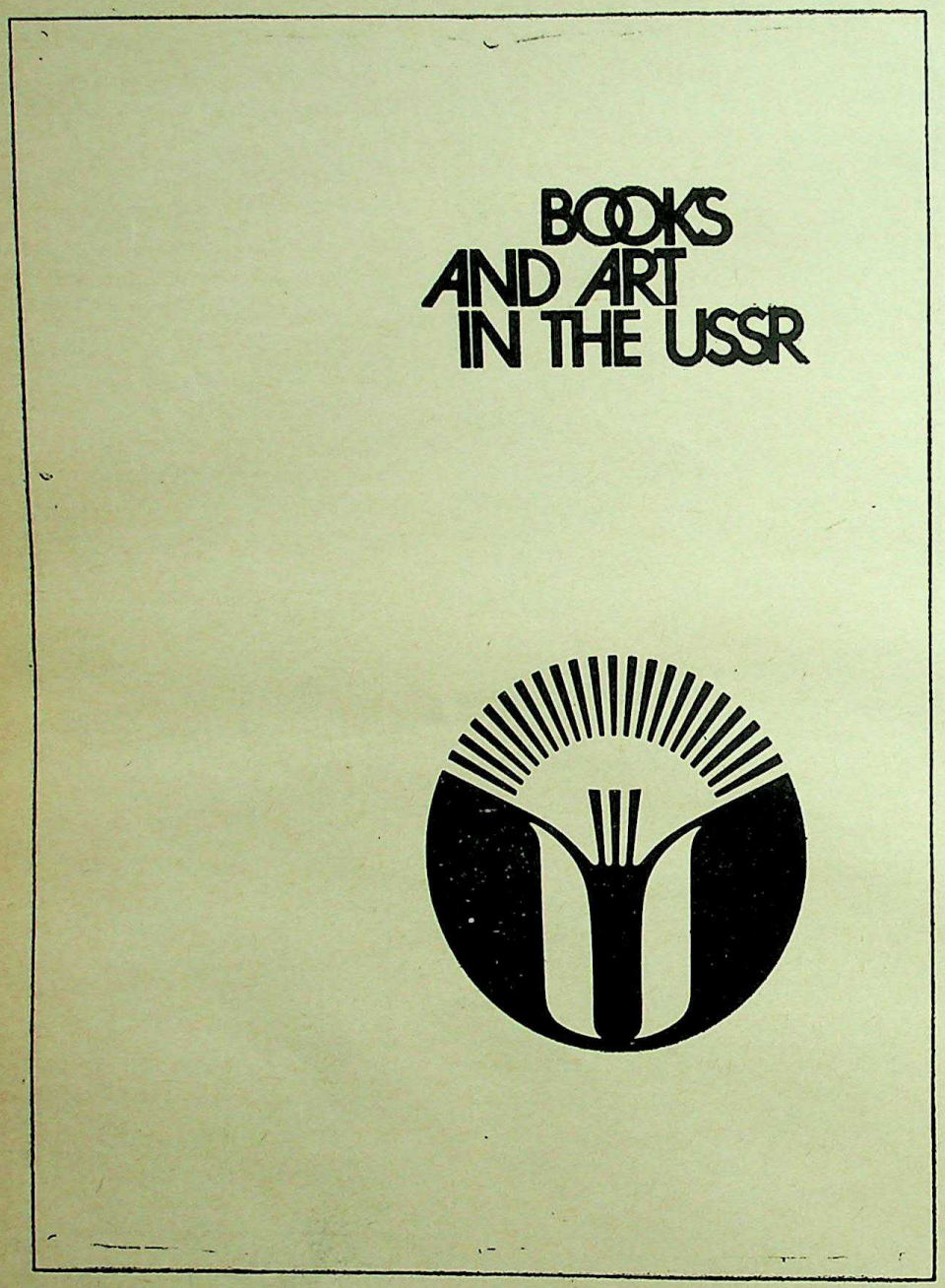

BOOKS AND ART IN THE USSR embraces practically all spheres of the country's intellectual life.

Politics and sociology, economy and medicine, psychology and sports, the latest discoveries in science and technology, such is the thematic range of the first section of the bulletin.

The section dealing with fiction and poetry features articles about the best-known Soviet prose-writers, dramatists and poets, interviews with authors of bestsellers, information about the books soon to appear in print, excerpts from new novels and stories published in literary journals and reviews of plays and theatrical productions.

The music section tells about modern Soviet symphony, chamber and popular music, new operas and ballets, informs about new discs and albums, books about music and musical premieres.

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All the volumes will be published in English. Additionally, separate volumes will be available in the languages of the region they cover. For example, *The Middle East and West Asia* will be translated into Arabic, *Latin America*—into Spanish, and the first volume—into major Indian languages.

Wide use will be made of the data banks of the National Archives of India as well as of the Public Record Office in Great Britain.

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A. A. Shalimov, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR. Figures are drawn according to drafts suggested by N. Dryuch and A. Radzikhovsky.

THEATRE

SELECTED WORKS OF KONSTANTIN STANISLAVSKY, compiled by Oksana Kornena: Raduga Publications, Moscow; pp 310, Price Rs. 8.50

Indian theatre, especially Hindi theatre, by and large, has been guided by the principles and norms set by Bharata in his *Natya Shastram*. But, in the late fifties and early sixties, Hindi theatre was influenced by European, especially the English theatre. It was at this time that enthusiastic young talent in theatre started to look for new devices and means in theatre to meet the present-day challenges. It is here that they came in contact, intellectually, through their writings with Brecht and Stanislavsky. Perhaps these two have influenced most of the theatre scene in the world of today. Both have no pretensions and have built their own style and produced a new grammar for theatre. Both had to face the social challenges of their times and this is the prime reason that both of them are relevant to the India of today.

Konstantin Stanislavsky is a legend in the world of theatre and to acquaint the new, and uninitiated, reader to his ideas and norms set by him for theatre, Raduga Publishers of Moscow have done a good job by bringing out the *Selected Works*. The book is beautifully compiled by Oksana Korneva and aesthetically produced. The 'works' throw ample light on Stanisalvsky as an explorer and naturalist. He was the first to solve the problem of consciously mastering the subconscious and then linked it to the process of creative work on the stage. He laid great emphasis on an actor being transformed into a character. With these basic conceptions, Stanislavsky developed the laws of the technique of acting.

The major thrust of Stanislavsky was directed to attain the fulness of the inner emotion and demonstrate before the audience this fulness in its true colour. He discarded exaggerated gesture and action while playing a role. He himself was a good actor and believed that "to be a good Director one had to be a born actor".

Stanislavsky also laid emphasis on costumes and other properties which would lend authenticity. To achieve this authenticity, he would travel to places far off and acquire relevant material. He worked with sincerity and always told his actors and other colleagues to be sincere to the cause of theatre. Sincerity and simplicity were no mere words to him. They were the planks on which he built up the entire superstructure of his style.

It was Stanislavsky who staged Chekhov's plays at a time when Chekhov was considered monotonous and a bore. Stanislavsky got a great deal of praise from Pushking who helped him develop his own conception about the stage. Theatre, for Stanislavsky, was not just a source of amusement. It was a powerful means of communication.

EXPLORATION

POLAR DIARIES by Yevgeny Fedorov; Progress Publishers Moscow; pp 344 plus 16 pages photos, Price Rs 8

Imagine a small island made up of ice which is floating at an average speed of 12-15 kms, occasionally more, per day and a team of dedicated scientists, explorers and dare-devil adventurers for whom death stalks at every step, traversing a total distance of over 3 thousand kms in high latitudes from North Pole of the earth to the coast of Greenland. This is what the *Polar Diaries* are about.

It is not just a story of an adventure. It is the story of success of Soviet Science. Following in the footsteps of Emundson, the Soviets decided to establish research stations in the Arctic region and the author, Yevgeny Fedorov, a geo-physicist of some standing in the USSR, got involved in it first with a spirit of adventure and then it became an irreversible obsession with him.

The entire book, covering many trips of the author to the Arctic region, and the climax of which is the part where the author and his team-mates are dropped by a plane on the North Pole which would be their home/research-station for months to come, reads like a thriller. Today, when the knowledge of Arctic/Antartic regions is fairly wide and thorough, the whole thing may not sound much to a reader. But, in the years from 1919 and 1938 when the exercise was undertaken, the venture was nothing short of a suicide pact.

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WOMEN OF ALL NATIONS

A Record of their Characteristics, Habits, Manners, Customs and Influences

(IN TWO VOLUMES)

EDITED BY

ATHOL JOYCE & N.W. THOMAS

Since man rose above the lowest grade of savagery, woman has been the theme of poets, the model of artists and sculptors, and the despair to the males, generally. There have always been contradictory opinions about woman. Ancient mythology and medieval chivalry placed her on a high pedestal of divinity while philosophers like Schopenhauer assured us that she is inferior, both mentally and physically, to the stronger sex. But the sound judgement of the average man will reject the paradoxes and by simple process of natural selection eliminate from the character of the fair sex what is unpleasing in the advanced woman of the present day.

Taking a broad view of history, it may be said that the work is the story of how woman has ceased to be the slave of man, as she is among the people in the lowest planes of culture, and has become his help-mate.

The work has no pretension to trace the course of this development, but in the sequel, the reader will find in it the description of woman as she is at the present day among the people of the world. The work also furnishes ample materials for a reconstruction of the story of the advancement of woman from the lowest grade to the place she occupies to-day.

The work describes *WOMEN OF ALL NATIONS AND RACES* both civilized and tribal and brings out all important aspects of their life, viz. conception of beauty, ornamentation, dresses, courtship and marriage, position in the family and society, role as the wife and as the mother, position of the widows, music and dance, position in view of religion, beliefs and superstitions, role in social organisation and state administration, their happiness and sufferings, etc. etc. The work has thus been of an encyclopaedic nature, both in scope and in treatment of the subject.

There are 647 photographs and 24 colour illustrations in the book from all parts of the world. They have been selected because they are typical of the people whom they represent.

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ASOKE KUMAR GHOSH*

Product Quality to Boost Exports

During the last World Book Fair while I had occasion to browse through the books at the various stalls, a very significant line from the Bible caught my attention—"Of the making of many books there is no end". Though used in a different context this line taken in isolation has special significance in our own age. The world has produced more books just during the last 25 years than were ever produced earlier through the ages. This is no less true for India as it is for the rest of the world.

Today India ranks seventh in the world in production of books, and is the third largest book producing country in the English language after the U.S.A and the United Kingdom. Within the Third World we are, of course, the largest book producers.

Our progress in book production generally follows the progress made in other fields. But we cannot say this of its quality—and this in a large measure inhibits our export. It is true our book export increased many folds in the last 10 years to the present Rs. 25 crores; but look at this figure from the global point of view. Our share in the world market is very insignificant and less than 0.2%. It is all the more distressing when we do have an immense potential and *can* achieve a target of Rs. 100 crores. Our books are comparatively inexpensive; besides the great demand for books on Indian art, history, philosophy and religion in the Western countries, the Third World is looking for our college and school level books and books on science and technology.

Two vital factors that affect book exports are the editorial standard and production quality. While the subject, the content and the cultural editorial standards do play a key role, we shall restrict our discussion to product quality.

A professional marketing man knows how important 'packaging is to the marketability of his product. But, in the case of the book, the product itself constitutes its own packaging without which the book does not exist.

So, when we talk of the packaging of books, we are really talking about production and this has a bearing on four important components: Paper, Composing, Printing and Binding. Let me briefly touch on each of these in the context of export.

The first reason why our exports of books do not do as well as they could, is because of the poor quality of paper. To say that the quality of our paper is poor is an under-statement. While the price of paper in India has escalated almost 600%, the quality, on the other hand, has stood still where it was, if not deteriorated. Very scant attention, if any, is paid to the qualitative manufacture of paper, like minimizing of manufacturing defects, the control of paper opacity and acidity and ensuring the rigid uniformity of paper shades.

And because the paper-making industry is so heavily capital-intensive, Indian Book Publishers can do little at present except pay perhaps the highest price in the world for perhaps the poorest kind of paper. Paper, in terms of cost, constitutes 30% of the price of a book in India. In Japan, to take one instance, this figure is a mere 10%.

We can and do pay a higher price for better quality paper, but this is a price we can afford only if we judiciously mobilize and manage our financial resources. Indian Publishers can also collectively bring pressure to bear on the powers that be to step up the production of quality paper, halt the export of such quality paper as we do produce, and make available imported paper to Publishers.

The second of the four book production functions is the function of typesetting. One of the weakest links in the process of book production is at this stage.

Here, too, despite rather extensive modernization in recent years, when till lately even computerised photo-composing machines were available on Open General Licence, what we forgot to "modernize", as we modernized our machines, were the men who operate these machines.

In the type-setting stage, I include the typesetter, the proof-reader, and all the other human agents who are responsible for overseeing the transformation of the manuscript into a saleable book.

It is at this point that our production methods in India are most

* Asoke Kumar Ghosh, Chairman and Managing Director of Prentice Hall of India Pvt. Ltd., is President of F.I.P.

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subject to mistakes caused by human error. This is so because the bulk of the people employed at this stage are semi-literate who with the gain in experience may become good artisans, but lack the mental dexterity and sophistication needed for the job.

This primary disability is something he carries with him right through his career. And it is a disability which seriously inhibits the inputs he makes to the process of book production.

The question that needs to be asked is, why must this be so? Why is it that the printing industry tolerates the second and third rate candidates at a time when in India the five star hotels insist that even their room service waiters be at least college graduates?

It is true, a few enlightened printers do employ educated personnel, but they lack the technical expertise and exposure to the machine. For instance, a graduate with a knowledge of typing, but lacking in technical skill can never perform efficiently on a photo-setting machine. In addition to his academic and typing knowledge he needs technical skill to deliver the desired quality product. The *man* behind the machine is as important as the machine itself.

From composing we come to the next stage—*printing*.

If you pick up at random any book, the chances are you will find a complete absence of uniformity in the inking from form to form, and often even from page to page. If it is a letterpress work, the results of improperly locked founts or smashed type invariably jump out of the page at you. The reason for these is obvious; we are not quality conscious.

But why should be it so?

Far too many of our printing organizations are first or second generation success stories that started with treadle machines housed in a small room. Today they comprise many million rupee multicolour machines staffed by more people than perhaps the original treadle pressman had customers. Yet the thinking and ambitions which drive these organizations somehow got stuck at the treadle machine age.

These men are, or rather should be, professionals. Professionally trained, professionally employed, and above all professionally qualified and paid as well. The sooner the printing houses—on whom the book publishers depend on—realize this, the sooner they will be able to help tap the vast potential profits that wait to be made through the export of books.

The need for the necessary technological inputs and the adoption of modern methods for the printing process cannot be overstressed. As a publisher, I have much to be thankful for to the printing industry. But also as a publisher, there is much more I expected from it. And it is high time they started delivering.

Next we come to the *binding* process stage. With the not-so-good binding and with papers predisposed to falling apart at the slightest impact and with the not-so-pleasant smell of the glue, we may be able to get away within the Indian market. But, when we strive for export for our books, we face competition with the advanced countries where the readers also look for the quality of binding besides paper.

My own experience with foreign importers even as near as Singapore showed that some of our books got damaged because of inferior quality of binding. The idea that the hard cover always withstands more wear and tear is also thinning out. We have ourselves changed to good laminated paper cover with better results.

Binding materials should be appropriate for the format and weight of the book, the fabricignatures, folding in relation to paper grammage and volume thickness, spine adhesion, direction of paper grain.

If the book is uncased, the right kind of stitching should be used on the signatures, folding in relation to paper grammage and volume thickness, spine adhesion, direction of paper grain, and easy accessibility to its contents on opening the book.

That the quality of book production is very important to win the export market is borne out by the expectations of our foreign importers. My own experience and observation show that the foreign buyer, despite his knowledge that the Indian books are *still* cheaper, is also conscious that he is paying more and more every year for our books. His psychological expectation is that he is entitled to get a little better quality product for the higher value spent.

Now to conclude, let me summarize in essence what we had so far discussed to enhance the quality of the books for better export prospects.

To enhance the quality of the type and composing the publisher, instead of carrying for the 'big name' status or the 'reputation' of the printer, should consider only the professionalism of the operatives employed by the printer and the equipment used.

In the case of binding, I want to add that the publishers need to take their binder into confidence, consult and seek his advice—which publishers rarely do. It is the binder who can make or mar the product; the correct stitching, gluing to the cover, margin at the sides, and size of the book itself—all depends on the binder's professional acumen. So it is wiser to consult him at the planning stage itself.

For the eye-appeal—the important factor in marketing—jacket designing and lamination need to be done through creative artists and quality laminators having necessary sophistication.

Every publisher gets the quality he deserves. Good quality is nothing else but the end-result of good management. The better we manage our production of books—with the human, financial and technological resources—the better will we be able to export them.

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O. P. GHAI*

Indian Publishing Forges Ahead

Brief Historical Background

Publishing arrived in India towards the close of the sixteenth century when Jesuit missionaries brought the printing press into the country. It was an adjunct to evangelism but soon the dynamics of communication took over, and the activity, in the 19th century, began to encompass larger and secular areas. It received a two-fold impetus: (1) With the educational system becoming organised after the acceptance of Macaulay's report on education, books were needed for the new educational system and (2) as the Indian renaissance gained roots, especially in Bengal, publishing began to assume its rightful role in the country's intellectual life. While educational publishing remained in the hands of British-owned subsidiaries of such companies as Macmillan, Longman and Oxford University Press, cultural publishing remained with men who were related to the national awakening.

Publishing since Independence

Book publishing as an organized activity is almost coincidental with the dawn of Independence. There was of course the generativeness of the free state, the prolific political debate, the spillover from the media, and the emergence of an indigenous capitalism in publishing. Books were churned out in English, which stayed on as the unacknowledged *lingua franca*, and in the Indian languages as their literacy bases expanded. Soon Indian publishing began serving the needs of Indians settled abroad in large numbers, and even supplying textbooks to the countries of Asia and Africa, and academic books to libraries and research institutes all over the world.

India ranks seventh in the world in terms of the number of titles published annually, according to UNESCO statistics. And even more significant is the fact that we occupy the third position in terms of the number of English titles published, after the USA and the UK. This fact alone gives Indian publishing an enormous opportunity to contribute actively to the transnational movement of ideas and information in the decades to come.

Indian linguistic plurality has resulted in translation of books growing into a considerable discipline, with its own technology and expertise. As long as English remains a language of science, higher pedagogy, commerce and industry, and as these activities unite the diverse regions of the country, Indian books translated into English ensure the quickest and most efficient trans-lingual dispersal.

Books Produced in India, Subjectwise

	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Assamese	196	193	350
Bengali	1045	1025	1032
English	7655	6983	5856
Gujarati	767	677	708
Hindi	2225	2556	2811
Kannada	500	502	417
Malayalam	757	913	607
Marathi	1361	1138	1264
Oriya	445	248	611
Punjabi	308	325	308
Sanskrit	43	104	97
Sindhi	—	—	—
Tamil	1135	1315	1152
Telugu	389	392	1030
Urdu	286	388	300
Other Languages	55	39	110
Total:	17168	16798	16650

More important is the fact that English translations will provide the vital tie-up the Indian languages need with the world metropolis.

India has a comparative advantage over many other countries, both economically in terms of book production costs, and linguistically in terms of the widespread capacity to use English in the preparation, publication and dissemination of knowledge. Too often in the past the flow of ideas and information has been predominantly from other parts of the world, particularly Europe and North America to India and not from India to the

*O. P. Ghai is Chairman of Sterling Publishers (Pvt.) Ltd.

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rest of the world. Indian authors and publishers will have to take up the challenge of making it a two-way traffic.

Let us bear in mind that India's creativity is not confined to the past nor is it restricted to the philosophical, religious, literary or artistic persuasions. India is contributing vitally to the more temporal persuasions, the developmental, sociological and scientific debates which move contemporary societies.

Therefore, it is imperative that more books, better books, and low-priced books be published in abundance, as a national objective.

Public and the Private Sectors

Ours is a mixed economy, which is as much reflected in book publishing as in other sectors. The publications brought out by the state sector include not only parliamentary reports, policy documents of the Government of India, etc., but also school textbooks, children's literature, biographies and works of cultural and aesthetic significance. Often these are subsidized by the state. Publications of school texts by government agencies is now an accepted fact in the country. In some cases even the distribution is undertaken by the state. This denies the private publishers of the most lucrative branch of publishing.

The state's entry into publishing of textbooks has not produced ideal results. Mr Narendra Kumar, Past President, Federation of Indian Publishers, rightly says:

> The textbooks being used today, produced under a State monopoly, show a total disregard for quality, either in context or similar disregard for revision and updating, a lack of care in the commissioning and screening of authors; and no concern for regional and ethnic variations in requirements. Indeed, these shoddy texts, far from being a help, are a deterrent to learning, and since sales are guaranteed and there is no competition, the dismal situation continues. In fields where private publishers have been allowed to operate in publishing college-level texts, for instance, they have shown that they are capable of responsible and serious publishing. There is no reason to believe that this cannot be so in the case of school textbooks also. It should be possible for the government to monitor private textbook publishing with a view to ensuring quality and for the NCERT to set guidelines for publishers to follow.
>
> Healthy competition improves the quality of products. Nationalization, on the other hand, tends to replace a large number of texts by a single one; a diversity of views, approaches and solutions by set formulae; and variety in presentation by a repetition that numbs the senses. At the simplest level, this means that where there should be a range and wealth of authors, there are only a handful; where there should be a multiplicity of choice, there is only the lowest common denominator; and where there should be a steady and strong infusion of ideas, there is often only a tired retelling of facts. Where is the impetus?

We feel that the Government should involve private publishers in the production of school textbooks. It will ensure a better cash flow and the publishers will be able to bring out other varieties of much needed literature.

There are some private publishers already engaged in producing school textbooks. They publish mostly for elitist private schools in metropolitan centres. Besides textbooks, they successfully market supplementary reading material which the state does not provide. Scholarly publishing, however, is by and large in the hands of private publishers. Such work is normally done by university presses in other countries. Not only are the sales of these academic titles very slow but the payments are blocked generally for a long time.

Various literary academies supported by the state governments publish outstanding works of literature. This genre of publishing, however, seldom involves a realistic awareness of economic factors.

Cooperation with Socialist Countries

Ever since the beginning of the Moscow International Book Fair, there has been a notable increase in participation by Indian publishers. This cultural link has resulted in a number of Russian books being translated into English and quite a few Indian languages. A few Indian books have also been translated into Russian languages. However, there is a much larger potential in this area of exchange yet to be realized. I am sure that in the years to come cooperation between publishers in India and the socialist countries will further increase. Already similar exchange arrangements have been concluded with GDR, Yugoslavia and Poland. These bonds will certainly have much to contribute to international understanding and world peace.

Book Exports

Books published in India are being exported to almost all countries. But India's share of the world market is negligible, despite the fact that in terms of English language publishing India ranks third in the world. Of its total exports, the volume is largely made up of exports to the English-speaking countries.

Traditionally over 50 per cent of India's book exports went to the USA and Britain (consisting largely of Indology and Orientalia), most of the rest going to countries with large Indian immigrant populations.

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This pattern is now undergoing a rapid change. The US and the UK together account for only 35 per cent of our exports, while new markets in Singapore, Malaysia Sri Lanka, Bangaldesh, Nepal, the Middle East and Africa are fast assuming major importance. Altogether, Indian books are now being exported to over 80 countries.

Explaining this phenomenon, Asang Machwe, Director of Wiley Eastern, says, "College level Indian textbooks have a great cost advantage over their foreign competitors; they are priced at only a quarter of their American or British counterparts; and their intellectual level and the background that is assumed are much more appropriate to conditions in Third World countries."

This fact is corroborated by Narendra Kumar, Managing Director of Vikas Publishing House. He says, "All English-speaking countries that were once part of the British Empire have so far been monopolised by the British publishers. Sixteen out of 36 African countries do not have printing presses, and are totally dependent on imports. Now that educational publishing in India has come of age, Indian textbooks are in a strong position to take over from British ones, both because they are cheaper and more suited to local conditions."

The Government of India provides some support for the export of books. The Publication Panel of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) coordinates promotion and resolves problems faced by book exporters. In addition, the National Book Trust participates in Book Exhibitions and Fairs abroad and the Government gives travel subsidy for export promotion. But all this is nothing compared to the massive support given by the American, British and Soviet Governments to the publishers of their countries. We need some machinery like the British Council which is regularly and scientifically promoting British books all over the world.

Indian publishers have the capability and the technical knowhow to make a dent on book exports. They have already increased their exports from Rs. 6 crores in 1978-80 to about Rs. 20 crores in 1984-85.

Given suitable encouragement with incentives, simple procedures, visits of prominent publishers and cooperation from our missions abroad, Indian books could gain an important position the world over, especially in Asian and African countries.

Federation of Indian Publishers

I will conclude the article with a note on the Federation of Indian Publishers which is the representative body of publishers in English, Hindi and other languages with its membership drawn from all over India. All the leading publishers of the country are its direct members, other publishers being represented through various local associations and the Federation's regional offices at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Bangalore.

The Federation is a registered society. Its present membership is over 400, including several regional associations like the Tamilnadu Publishers Association, Kerala Publishers Association and Karnataka Publishers Association.

The main objective of the Federation is to promote professional standards among members and provide a forum for publishers to discuss their problems at the national and international levels.

The Federation is affiliated to the International Publishers Association.

It also functions as the Regional Office of the International Publishers Association for South Asia.

The Federation has been organising training courses and seminars from time to time on different aspects of publishing and allied issues. In some of its training courses, countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have also participated. In February 1979 it organised a workshop on book publishing. An International Seminar on Distribution and Marketing of Books was held in 1980, and a training course in copyright in March 1981.

The Federation has instituted annual awards for excellence in book production.

Lately the Federation has become very active in the international field. Three independent delegations, without any Government assistance, went to the USSR, China and the UK. With their Soviet counterparts they have formed a Working Group, the meetings of which will alternately be held in the USSR and India. The aim of the Working Group is to enlarge the areas of cooperation by holding joint seminars, organising book exhibitions, exchanging publishing experts and by exchanging bibliographic information on books published in India and the USSR.

The Federation is now housed in its own building, Federation House, at 181/C Institutional Area (near JNU) New Delhi-110067.

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NARINDER NATH*

Indian Books for Developing Countries

According to UNESCO statistics, about 80 per cent of the total number of titles (about 0.5 million) published every year are from Europe, Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States. Two-thirds of the world population is thus handicapped in its search for a better and fuller life for lack of one of the essential tools of progress: books and reading materials. Low production, inadequate distribution channels and high costs of imports combine to deprive the public of the reading materials it needs. On the other hand, with the rapid technological changes taking place in the world, the demand for books is growing, particularly in the developing countries.

Book exports from India developed only during the last decade. Exports of books, journals and periodicals rose from Rs. 18 million in 1974-75 to about Rs. 220 million during 1984-85. Still, there is ample scope for India to improve its share in the world trade of books. It is estimated that British publishers are in a position to export books and publications to the tune of about Rs. 6,000 million per year. Publishers from the United States export books and publications worth about Rs. 4,000 million per year. Books exports from West Germany amount to about Rs. 1,500 million per year. Our share in the world market is hardly 0.5 per cent. The question then arises what are the impediments which stand in our way and how we can compete and build our book exports in the developing countries. What is the status of book production in India and what is the scope for Indian books in these markets?

India is reported to be the 10th largest book-producing country in the world and the 3rd largest in producing booksin English. Out of about 15,000 titles published in India every year about 7,500 are in English.' Besides this, about 10,000 journals and periodicals and magazines are published in our country. Exact statistics relating to the number of publishers in the country are not available. It is estimated that there are about 8,000 active publishers of which 990 are corporate bodies like the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Book Trust, university and research institutions, NCERT, Publications Division, Lalita Kala Akademi, National Museums, etc. In recent years the quality of Indian publishing has significantly improved. With the setting up of modern printing facilities and improved quality of reproduction methods a new enthusiasm has been generated in the printing and publication industry, but India has yet a long way to go to compete with its Western counterparts. With all the existing and expected facilities, India can make rapid progress in developing its book exports, especially to the developing countries.

I have had the opportunity to visit some developing countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Egypt, Hongkong, Ceylon, Thailand Turkey. From the nature of enquiries which we received in the book exhibitions organised in these countries, it has been observed that there is a good deal of interest in Indian books especially, in books on science and technology, business management, medicine, international relations, economics, books about India, children's books and books on Indian religion, philosophy and Yoga. Further, it has been observed that many new educational institutions and libraries are being set up in many developing countries. We need to make special endeavours to make known and available latest books on various subjects to librarians, university academics and booksellers. Our books are considered not only comparatively cheap but also easily understandable by students of the developing countries. Curriculum and standards in most of the universities in the developing countries are similar to those prevailing in India.

* Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi.

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Our present share in the export of books to these countries has so far been negligible. The position, however, differs from country to country. In most of the developing countries, books on science and technology, engineering and medicine in English are in use. For example, our books on science and technology, business management, international relations and Islamic studies can find good markets in Kenya, Tanzania, Iran, Iraq, Bangladesh, Egypt, Sudan, Indonesia. Books on these subjects in Indian languages are also in good demand in Trinidad, Mauritius and Fiji. Books on Buddhist studies and Indian philosophy are specially required in Burma, Thailand and Ceylon.

To develop book exports to the developing countries is not an easy task. Most of them are short of foreign exchange and many African importers expect books on a long-tern credit basis. In some countries, for example Indonesia, there are restrictions imposed by the customs authorities. In some other countries the language problem stands in our way. In many Latin American countries, Spanish is the spoken language and in many countries in Africa French is the spoken language. At present we export few books and publications to these countries. But even people in these countries would like to know about India and Indian religion and philosophy. Taking these factors into consideration the Government provides several incentives for augmenting our book exports. Export of books abroad is important not only for earning foreign exchange. It is also a desirable activity as books are considered cultural ambassadors of the country. For these reasons efforts are being made to publicise Indian books abroad through participation in international book fairs with the assistance of the National Book Trust, organisation of special book exhibitions abroad and publication of special publicity brochures/journals, etc. Publishers are also assisted to encourage their participation in various book fairs through schemes at present operated by the Chemical and Allied Product Export Promotion Council. Cash assistance and import replenishment licences are granted to exporters of books and publications. In spite of these our book exports to developing countries are only about 2 to 3 per cent of their total imports.

Export of books to various countries abroad is to be linked not only with the economic benefits the country derives. It also helps in disseminating the culture of one to another. Let us take, for example, the motto of Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga : 'Trust, Mutual Understanding progress'. This Soviet firm is so well organised that it has been able to bring up its trade turnover to the value of 100 million roubles per annum. The efforts being made by the British Council and USIS to popularise books have helped British and American publishers a great deal. The USSR copyright agency is doing a commendable job in bringing publishers and authors together to negotiate copyright and translation rights.

I have noted from their quarterly journal *Books and Arts in USSR* for 1985, International Book Fair, Moscow, that Soviet publishers propose to display the latest books on subjects like Micro-processor Control Systems in Robotics, Analysing Air Pollution, Microbiological Conversion of Metals—topicsof latest interest. We have very friendly relations with the copyright agency of the USSR and our Federation of publishers have also entered into a special agreement with the USSR State Committee for Publishing and Printing and Book Trade.

If we have to compete with book distributors from the developed countries, who are well-entrenched in the developing countries, we shall have to take radical measures to adopt a planned strategy for promoting our books abroad. This cannot be achieved through the efforts of any single organisation or institution. If we have to make a dent in the developing countries we may consider the question of setting up a separate Foreign Book Exhibition Wing either under the National Book Development Council or elsewhere which should exclusively look after the organisation of book exhibitions and book promotional activities abroad. Some of the main functions which this Wing can perform are:

(*i*) To undertake market surveys in foreign countries in order to find out the suitability of introducing Indian books; study of educational systems at school as well as college and university levels, the syllabi followed in those countries, the lists of books prescribed and to advise publishers on publishing the right type of titles for which demand can be created in particular markets.

(*ii*) Participation in international book fairs on a national scale.

(*iii*) Organisation of book exhibitions on university campuses on the lines of the British Council and in capitals of important countries with the assistance of our missions abroad.

(*iv*) Preparation of consolidated subject-wise catalogues.

(*v*) Preparation of publicity folders, brochures, newsletters, containing reviews of books.

(*vi*) Preparation and maintenance of mailing lists of potential buyers abroad.

(*vii*) Joint publicity in foreign newspapers and journals

(*viii*) To guide its members in appointing agents and stockists abroad.

(*ix*) Appointment of wholesale stocking agents and setting up of book promotion offices in selected places abroad

(*x*) To negotiate reprint and translation rights.

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Reviews of Latest Publications from India

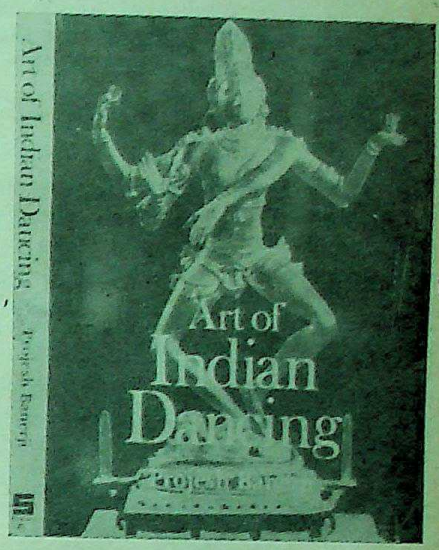
Art and Culture

ART OF INDIAN DANCING by Projesh Banerji, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 172, Rs. 175.

The rich heritage and culture of India is depicted in the various forms of Indian dance. We find detailed accounts of the codification of this art in ancient Sanskrit books especially the *Natya Shastra*. This art had been traditionally handed down from the gods and has come to stay in the world. A special feature of what we recognise as the classical dances—the Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Manipuri and Odissi—is that the temple played a vital role in their creation. They all had their birth in the temple precincts. Other forms are the folk dance which is for the sheer pleasure of the performers, the Tagore school of lyrical dance, and the Uday Shankar's style of dance which has the mark of his genius, masterly mind and creative art. The Yakhkshagana of Karnataka, a form of musical dance drama, is ten centuries old and the Kathak, the classical dance of north India, has its origin in the Indo-Mughal cultural fusion.

The author's aim is to show the correct path of renewal since the true modern dance forms are nothing but the revival of ancient Indian dance where gestures and postures were the chief elements.

The book is a comprehensive study of its own kind. It covers all aspects of Indian dance—its tradition, treatment in ancient scriptures, music in relation to dance, costumes, modern trends in stage lighting, and choreography. It is the result of more than four decades of the author's dedication, and will be a source of instruction and pleasure to art students, dancers, connoisseurs and scholars alike.



POET : Painter, Paintings by Rabindranath Tagore, Interpretation by Mulk Raj Anand, Abhinav Publications, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 86, Rs. 150.

Ananda Coomaraswamy once said : "Every man is an artist but an artist is a special kind of man". Dr. Mulk Raj Anand interprets the paintings of Rabindranath Tagore in the light of this aphorism. Indeed, the poet Rabindranath found himself doodling on page proofs : His pen became a brush; the brush followed the rhythm of his hand. And what was once written in words became a picture. Later, he self-consciously painted in black and white, and colour, certain imperceptible feelings, which welled up in him as poems used to do before. He was himself surprised to find that the poet in him had turned painter. Indian critics reluctantly accepted the disharmony of the pictures, while in the West he was hailed as one of the few surrealist artists of Asia. Certainly, his paintings echo the collective unconscious of his time.

KHAJURAHO : Erotica & Temple Architecture by Maqbool Ahmad, Asian Publications Services, 1985, pp. 80, Rs. 200.

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The art of Khajuraho is the Art of Temple Architecture. In the sacred atmosphere of these temples, one witnesses the intense moments of union of couples in various moods and forms. They depict no ordinary union of men and women. Instead, they are the manifestations of the cosmic form : 'Purusa' the God with 'Sakti', the mother form. They are in union as part of prayer and religious rituals. Their actions have been depicted by the marvellous chisels of the master craftsmen of the time who have left a legacy unrivalled by any architectural remains in any part of the world.

HISTORY OF MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE VOL. II by R. Nath, Abhinav, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 348, colour Illus. 24, tables of Hirji and Illahi eras and appendices Rs. 800

This volume deals with Personality Architecture of the classical age of Akbar: his buildings of Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri. It studies, with the help of contemporary sources, including Persian histories, paintings and epigraphs, the growth and development of this style of architecture from the sacred to the secular, from 'Loka' Durbari and from Theory to Practice—to the level and status of a national style.

CREATIVE DRAMA AND PUPPETRY IN EDUCATION, by Meher R. Contractor, National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, 1984, pp. 100. Rs. 11.50

In a fast developing country like India much is being done for education and its advancement, but the creative arts are often overlooked, perhaps due to lack of specially trained personnel. This book provides a general guide to help those who want to conduct training courses in puppetry and creative drama or to use these techniques in education, social work, recreation, occupational therapy and audio-visual education for communicating ideas to both children and adults.

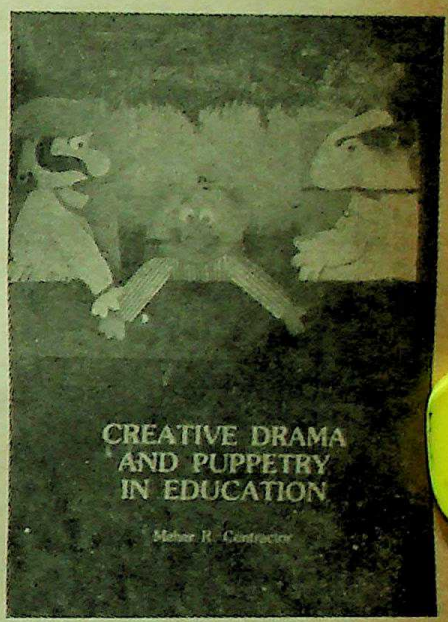
The author is a well-known authority on Puppetry. She has represented India at several international puppet festivals and conducts teachers' courses in puppetry and creative arts.

INDIA: A CULTURAL VOYAGE, by Udai Narain Tewari, Select Book Service Syndicate, New Delhi, pp. 237 Rs. 125.

India is a land of eternal resurgence. Writing history might or might not have been a vocation with ancient Indians. Creating history through a ceaseless process of an onlooking culture has definitely been a divine pastime. Cultural strides in India through more than thirty centuries constitute the theme of the book. It provides an insight into survey linkages of those strides, lauded and aspired for by mankind.

The book traces the voyage of Indian culture through its excellences in the realms of religion, philosophy, aesthetics, languages and sciences with a lively and unique system of deciphering unity in diversity.

The book contains readings from Kadambari, Mahabharata, Gandhi, and secular saints.



Economy and Business

INDIAN ECONOMY : The Regional Dimension, by Amitabh Kundu & Moonis Raza, Spectrum Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi, 1982, 150 pp. Rs. 70

The spatial dimension of development continues to be one of the neglected areas of economic analysis. Although some of the studies on growth models take subnational units as the geographic basis, not much

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empirical work is available to give content to these theories. In India, the requirements of imperialist exploitation during British rule and the zeal for national development thereafter were the additional factors that impeded the recognition of regional entities within the national polity during the nineteenth and a large part of the twentieth century. The stresses and strains generated in recent years as a result of disparities in the levels of development acquired alarming proportions and brought the need for a proper understanding of the regional dimension to a sharp focus.

The present study is an investigation into the changes in the space economy of India during the past fifteen years or so taking the National Sample Survey regions as the basic units of the analysis. The pattern of agricultural development has been analysed with the help of a large number of indicators relating to productivity, technological inputs and agrarian relations. An attempt is made to identify the factors responsible for the spatial differentiation associated with the green revolution. Similarly, the pace and pattern of industrialisation have been analysed with an eye on the changes in the rural-urban interdependencies and the organisation of space. The empircal investigations lead to generalisation of some significance regarding the regional structure of development along the essentially capitalistic path and provide a basis for building up a theory of modified underdevelopment in the context of the third world countries.

INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN PLANNED ECONOMY, by K.K. Singh, Amar Prakashan Delhi, 1985, pp. 190, Rs. 120

In recent years there has been increasing concern over the performance of public enterprises in India. Decidedly, most of them have so far failed to fulfil their economic role. Spokesmen of the private sector have decried the inefficiency of the public sector.

The present study examines whether the performance of public enterprises should be judged merely by the cost-benefit criterion. It relates the performance of two important and strategic public enterprises of India : HRL and HEC.

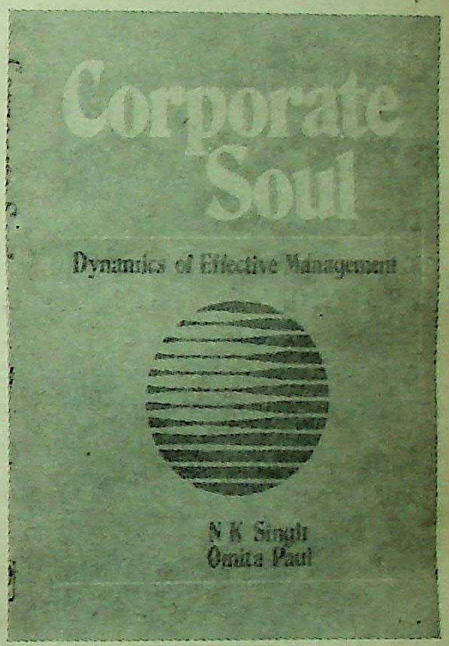
The study comes to the conclusion that the performance of a public enterprise should not be judged simply from an accountant's point of view. A public enterprise has to meet various social ends and produce many intangible benefits for the economy. A private enterprise is judged by the criterion of private profit rather than social gain.

BANK CREDIT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA, by J.K. Sharma, Classical Publishing Company, New Delhi, 1985, 216 pp., Rs. 125

The present study critically examines the role of commercial bank credit in promoting development of the Indian economy since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan. The financial infrastructure of the Indian economy is more developed than that of many other developing countries, and it has played a dynamic role in the context of planned economic development.

The author, after analysing the role of bank credit in a theoretical framework, has undertaken a detailed and thorough study of the main trends in commerical bank credit in India before and after nationalization.

CORPORATE SOUL : Dynamics of Effective Management, by N.K. Singh and Omita Paul, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, 158 pp. Rs. 95



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The book explores an alternative model for rapid development of the corporate sector of a developing country through effective technology. Effective technology will neither be pure high nor 'appropriate' technology but one which coheres with national 'psyche' and is functional.

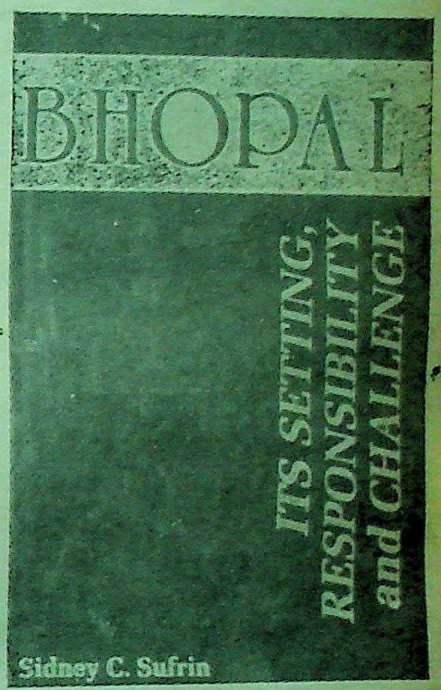
Based on extensive three-year research studies covering more than one thousand professionals in over 375 government departments, business houses, and academic institutions, the book develops an indigenous approach to effective management. The effective organisations of the future, the authors argue, will be mission-directed, value-oriented and integrated. There are hidden psycho-forces in individual psychology of east, which once related to societal perspectives and will unleash a motivational revolution.

Never before has any book revealed so much which is within us, a primordial urge, at once relevant to today's technology and which binds mankind to its common destiny. The book seeks to answer many questions like : What is culture of contemporary society? How to identify effective organisations'? What makes them effective and how to develop leadership of tomorrow in a fast changing world?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES (With Special Reference to Income Differentials in the ESCAP Region), by Kamal Mathur, Associated Publishing House, New Delhi, 1983, pp. 210, Rs. 95.

A pioneering study in the realm of economic development, the present work evolves a sophisticated method of measuring development disparities among the countries of the world. It is an experimental and innovative attempt at the quantification of growth sources in four developing Asian nations: India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea. The findings of the study will interest not only the inquisitive scholars of development economics but will also assist international economic organizations and policy-makers of the developing countries in reformulating their growth strategies for the greatest welfare of their populations.

BHOPAL : Its Setting, Responsibility and Challenge, by Sidney C. Sufrin, Ajanta Publications, Delhi. 1985, 98pp., Rs. 60.



Bhopal was a shock. The name of the city now stands for the December 3, 1984, accident. Like Watergate, Yalta and Three Mile Island, Bhopal means the beginning of an era limited in this case to the public attitude toward multinational or international business activity. Three Mile Island signalled that nuclear reactors were not as safe as we had assured. Natural fuels are dangerous but not that dangerous. Bhopal signalled that chemical reactions may be dangerous, and when carried out with little regard to safety precautions, they may be lethal.

In this little book, the author, who is an American academician, has tried to understand why what happened did happen. His emphasis is on the cultural and human setting of the accident and on the general direction for protection against such accidents in the future.

The book will direct some of the discussion, already ignited, towards goals the author finds worthwhile. The book is a must for everyone who is interested to know the tragedies of social and moral responsibilities in the business and inside roots of the human disaster.

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Government and Politics

GANDHI AS A SOCIALIST by M.L. Sharma, Foreword by Dr. R.R. Diwakar, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, 1980, 208 pp., Rs. 40

A number of books trying to interpret and present Mahatma Gandhi's life, thought and actions, have been written. This book has tried to portray Gandhi as a socialist. It establishes that Gandhian socialism is unique in many ways. In its broadest sense, its aim is to build a new human community based on the noble instincts of man.

The traditional socialist thought, being deeply rooted in materialism, has failed to interpret the history and evolution of the human race correctly. Man is not merely matter but also spirit. Any theory of social reconstruction would fail if it overstresses the one and ignores the other. To Gandhi belongs the credit of establishing a judicious relationship between the two. The tragedy of Marxian Socialism is that it ignored totally the non-material forces. In Gandhian Socialism the two find their due place.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA : Vol I (The Domestic Scene), P.C. Mathur (ed.), Printwell Publishers, Jaipur, 1985, pp., 420, Rs. 195

Contents of the book:

NATION-BUILDING AND SUB-NATIONALISM: Ethnic Solidarity and Political Sovereignty; Sub-nationalism in South Asia; Economic Roots of Sub-national Conflicts in India.

RELIGION AND POLITICS: Religion and State in South Asia; Religion and State in Pakistan.

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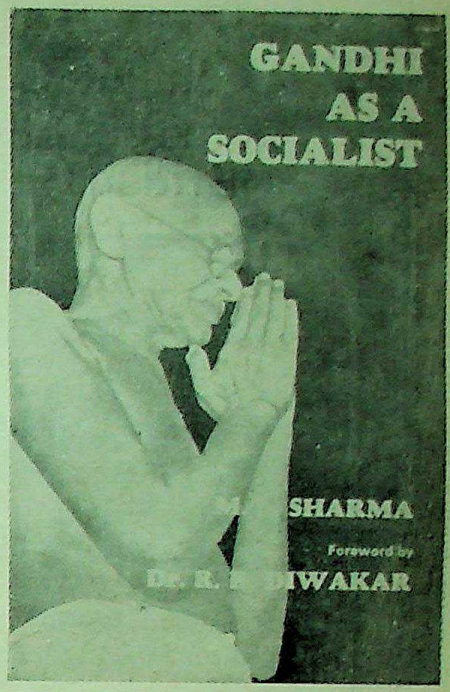
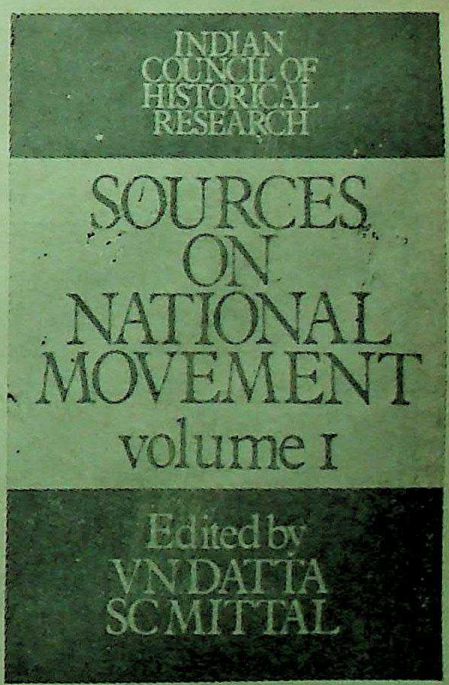


History

INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH : SOURCES ON NATIONAL MOVEMENT, Volume I, edited by V.N. Datta and S.C. Mittal, Allied Publishers, 1985, 314 pp., Rs. 125

This work deals with one of the most significant periods in the evolution of Indian Nationalism, 1919 to September 1920, Within this short period there emerged a highly sensitive, vibrant and vital leadership that struck a new idiom in Indian politics.

The present book, while presenting a large collection of highly valuable source-material of first-rate importance, provides a key to the understanding of official and public mind on the political issues which gripped the country. While the official correspondence highlights the specific orders and policy matters, the private correspondence of Indian leaders illuminates their plans, strategies and mental reservations about the programmes and policies adopted by their contemporaries. This correspondence reflects the dilemmas and predicament in which the officials and political leaders found themselves involved. The documents recreate the times



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when people protested, agitated and defied with a view to gaining their self-respect and political rights from the reluctant British hands.

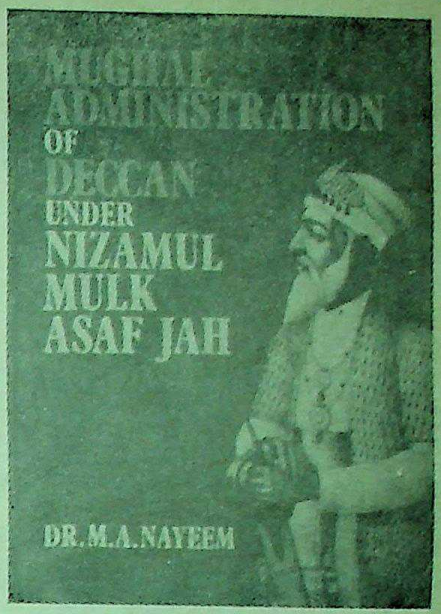
The volume opens with an introduction by Professor V.N. Datta which is followed by the documents arranged chronologically and thematically with annotations and explantory notes.

MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH : Politics, Society and Economy, by Fauja Singh & A.C. Arora (eds.), Publication Bureau, Punjabi University, Patiala, 1984, pp. 384, Rs. 40

The establishment of the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Punjab ushered in a new epoch in the history of the region. Under his rule, not only was the unification of Punjab accomplished, but very significant improvements were also witnessed in every branch of administration. The prevailing peace and order in the kingdom, together with the personal efforts of the Maharaja, created a very conducive environment for the development of agriculture, education, literature, fine arts. trade and commerce. Due to the liberal religious policy of the Maharaja, people of all communities—Hindus, Sikhs Muslims and Christians—lived and thrived in an atmosphere of communal harmony and goodwill.

A seminar organised in the Punjabi University in connection with the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in August 1981 focused attention on these historical aspects of the subject. The wide spectrum of the themes covered in the seminar, which are included in this volume, will help the reader understand better the politics, society and economy of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's times.

MUGHAL ADMINISTRATION OF DECCAN UNDER NIZAMUL MULK ASAF JAH, by Dr. M. A. Nayeem, Jaico Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, 336 pp., Rs. 300



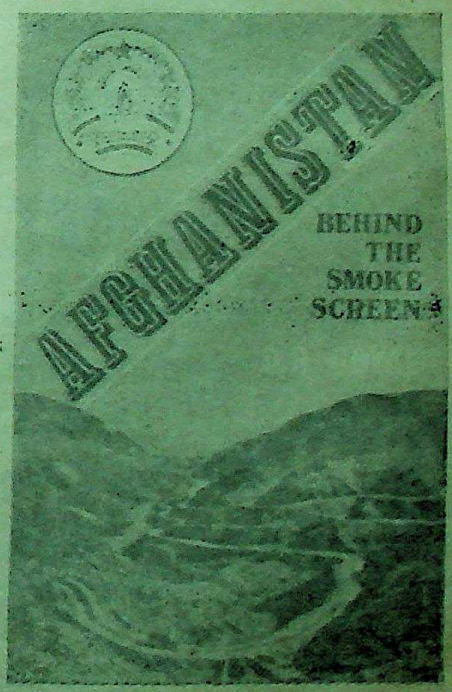
Several scholarly works are available on the administration of the Mughal empire in North India but none on that of the Deccan. This book presents a study of the administration of the Mughal Suba of the Deccan and thus fills a lacuna.

In the process of restoring Mughal authority in the Deccan in the chaotic conditions following Aurangzeb's death, Nizamul Mulk almost created a new administration and gave it a new dimension. It is this modified Mughal administration of the Deccan which has been studied in this work. It begins with a discussion of controversial topics about the status of Nizamul Mulk in the Mughal Empire and the date on which he established his supremacy in the Deccan.

International Affairs

AFGHANISTAN : Behind the Smoke Screen, by D.R. Goyal, Ajanta Publications Delhi, 1984, 314pp., Rs. 150.

Afghanistan leapt into media headlines on April 17, 1978, when the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan overthrew the Daoud regime to usher in Saur Revolution. Ever since it has been the subject of hot discussion all over the world. The controversy took a sharper edge after December 27, 1979, when Babrak Karmal came to the driver's seat of the Revolution. The discussions have been concentrated on the question of the presence of Soviet troops in the country.



The author during his two visits in 1983 felt that there were other aspects of the situation which deserved more attention. From his talks with a wide cross-section of the people he came to the conclusion that the revolutionary government

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headed by Karmal had found acceptability with the people at large and the controversy about Soviet troops which raged outside was treated as a spurious issue inside the country.

On the basis of evidence collected from newspaper reports, published books and personal interviews, the author has established that the controversy was a smoke-screen to cover the conspiracy to reverse the course of revolution. He has given a detailed account of how the opponents of Saur Revolution—whose vested interests were hit—were mobilised and equipped by the USA and its allies to instal a pro-West government in Kabul.

The history of Afghanistan, the nature and role of Islam in Afghan society and the country's relations with the outside world have been dealt with in detail to clarify questions about its non-aligned character, the supposed threat to Islam and the Afghan view of the role of the USSR in its history and contemporary development.

HOW MOSCOW SEES KASHMIR, by Hemen Ray, Jaico Publishing House, New Delhi, Rs. 125.

The geographical location of Kashmir has always been a crucial factor in the economic and political importance of the state. The British, recognising its strategic position, maintained a stronghold on it. The partition in 1947 saw Kashmir as the focal point of the Indo-Pakistan conflict.

Moscow's interest in Kashmir dates from the period of Tsarist expansion into Central Asia. It made attempts to break British authority but did not succeed. After World War II, the Soviet Union revived its efforts. Stalin endeavoured to turn Kashmir into an independent Communist state ruled by the Indian Communists. Khrushchev used Kashmir to strengthen the Indo-Soviet relationship. Brezhnev tried to bring about a reconciliation between India and Pakistan under the aegis of the Soviet Union.

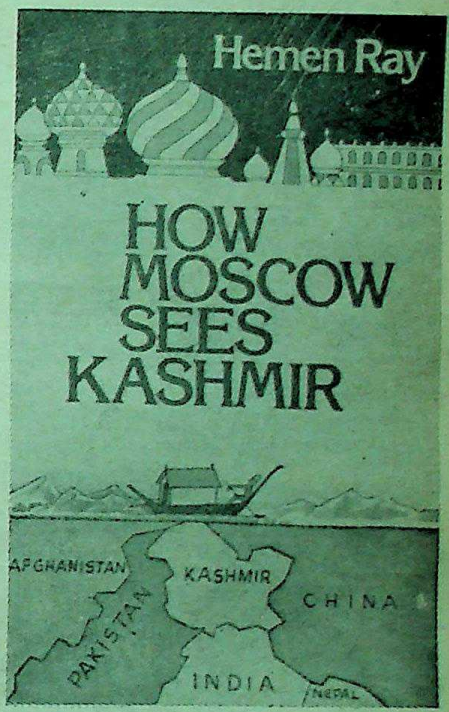
The book provides an objective analysis of the hitherto unknown facts of this period of Indo-Soviet relations. Heman Ray reviews the changes in policy adopted by the Soviet Union towards Kashmir. His study is based on exhaustive research into original Chinese and Russian documents, Security Council records, newspapers and periodicals.

BANDUNG TO TASHKENT : Glimpses of India's Foreign Policy, by C.S. Jha, Sangam Books, Madras, 1983, pp. 361, Rs. 110.

This collection of memoirs of C.S. Jha provides an intimate account of behind-the-scenes activity at the United Nations and highlights the complexity of forces which led to the momentous and epoch-making events of the fifties and sixties.

Having worked in close association with many outstanding statesmen of our time and drawing upon his invaluable experience in the diplomatic service, the author gives not merely a historical account but also an analysis of events, situations, policies and reflections.

While tracing the development of Indian foreign policy under different prime ministers, the author brings into focus the significance of Indian foreign policy in preserving world peace and harmony and easing international tensions and conflicts. The Bandung Conference and the Tashkent Declaration, according to him, are the nodal points of Indian foreign policy during the period following independence.



Law and the Constitution

PRESIDENT AND THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION by Valmiki Choudhary, Allied Publishers, New Delhi, 1985, 380 pp., Rs. 125

There are three features of the Indian Constitution : (a) It is a

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BARABUDUR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION BY. N. J. KROM

IN FIVE VOLUMES

Barabudur, the most magnificent monument in Java, Indonesia, is a colossal structure justly regarded as a veritable wonder by the whole world. This noble architecture, built in the early ninth century A.D., consists of nine gradually receding terraces, three uppermost ones being encircled by rings of stupas, each containing an image of Buddha within a perforated framework. The five lower terraces are encircled by four successive galleries which contain eleven series of sculptured panels depicting the life of the Buddha and other Buddhist stories. The total number of sculptured panels in the galleries is about 1500. Not only this massive grandeur but the fine quality of the immense decorations, extensive relief sculptures, and the numerous images of the Buddha deeply impress any visitor. This combination of massive quantity and fine quality invests Barabudur with a unique character. It has hardly, any parallel in the world, and it may be truly remarked of its artists that 'they conceived like giants and finished like jewellers'.

The life of the Buddha and other Buddhist stories depicted on the sculptures of Barabudur are not the imagination of the artists but based on the tradition of Sarvastivada and Vajrayana schools of Buddhism and are directly related to the ancient texts like Avadanasataka, Jatakamala, Gandavyuhastura, etc.

A complete explanation of all that is depicted in the most splendid creation of Hindu-Javan culture was, therefore, not very easy, though efforts had been made since the beginning of the present century. It was possible thanks to the interest and enthusiasm of the then Government of the Netherlands. A complete series of photographs of the monument were made between 1907 and 1911. Then Koninklijk Institut voor de Taat, Land-en Volkenkunde van Nederlandsch Indie was commissioned to publish the archaeological and architectural descriptions of Barabudur, The result of this project was the publication of a monograph in Dutch, in two volumes, the archaeological part by Nicholas Johannes Krom and the architectural part by T. Van Erp, with 692 plates of photographs in three big folios. The work well represents the massive quantity and fine quality of the subject it deals with.

The author of the archaeological part has recorded all that is known about the significance of Barabudur and what could be gained from the original sources mentioned above.

An English edition of the archaeological part, in very limited copies, was issued, in 1927, in two volumes, which is long out of print.

The present publication is a photographic reproduction of the 1927 English edition in its entirety of the text and the illustrations.

Text : 2 volumes (viii, 478; 365 p) 23 cm x 29 cm.

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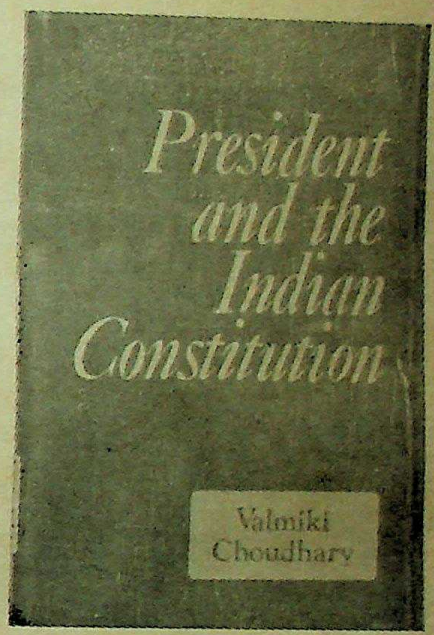
LAW OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (3rd edition, by R.G. Chaturvedi, Law Book Company, Allahabad, 1985, pp., 905, Rs. 225.

This treatise begins with a history of the revolution and evolution of rights, delineating the salient features of the Fundamental Rights, collectively as well as individually, spotlighting the history of the tests so far evolved for judging the validity of laws on the touchstone of Fundamental Rights, and thereafter proceeds to a lucid article-wise commentary on the provisions incorporated in Part III of the Constitution.

Having traced the constitutional history of each article, the text thereof has been updated and thereafter a compendious commentary on each constructively culled out from all judicial decisions reported till December 1982, has been placed into exhaustive Head Notes, meticulously divided, wherever necessary, into their synoptic subheads, covering in chaste, concise and simple expression, the principles available in all those decisions. A note on principles flowing from the decisions taken from January 1983 to July 1984 has been placed in the Addenda so as to make the treatise an up-to-date document on the law of Fundamental Rights.

The right to property having since been removed from the ambit of the Fundamental Rights, a chapter, evaluating the present status of this right has been placed after the chapters devoted to the commentary on Articles 12 to 35-A in their application to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The treatise ends with a chapter on the emergent concept of Public Interest Litigation.



TAXATION AND FISCAL ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA, by O.N. Tripathi, Upper India Publishing House, Lucknow, 1985, pp., 152+ xii, Rs. 75.

This work is an attempt to set forth, within the framework of available data, a complete historical account of taxation together with financial administration in ancient India starting from Vedic times to the end of the Mauryan era. The early texts—both religious and secular—in Sanskrit and Pali have been critically examined from the point of view of obtaining data relating to this subject. The conclusions drawn should prove of great interest to tax planners, administrators and historians alike.

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Library Science

PUBLIC LIBRARY OPERATIONS AND SERVICES: A Short Manual (third edition), by C.G. Viswanathan, Print House, Lucknow, 1985, pp. 232, Rs. 175.

This is a brief manual to help both the performer and the user of library and information services. The need for efficient management of public libraries and information centres has attained urgency and indispensability as the frontiers of knowledge have been expanding during the last few years, specially in the disciplines of science and technology.

Despite limitation of space, an attempt has been made in the book to cover all aspects of library services. Illustrations, diagrams and tables elucidate the text. There are nineteen chapters, of which chapters two and nineteen relate to 'application of management theory to library operations' and 'advent of machines for library operations'.

Life Sciences

PERSPECTIVES IN PRIMATE BIOLOGY, By P.K. Seth (ed.), Today & Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi, 1983, 242 pp., Rs. 345

This is a comprehensive volume containing original papers on primate biology, exploring in depth some of the crucial issues emerging in the field. It focusses attention on the biological, social and ecological determinants that contribute to primate biology. Written by experts on various aspects of primatology, it is an indispensable treatise on primates and is also an appropriate reference source for experienced professionals and students.

The volume concentrates on communication patterns in the non-human primates as they occur in different environments. It provides specific data on eco-management and conservation of the free-ranging monkeys vis-a-vis correlates in their behaviour and social development. Among the topics discussed and illustrated are various aspects of evolution. Conservation of genetic material, reproductive behaviour, infanticide and cannibalism and conservation strategies.

BIOLOGICAL MACRO-MOLECULES : STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION; Proceedings of Indo-Soviet Binational Symposium, Edited by C. Rajamanickam and Vadim T. Invanov, Today and Tomorrow's Printers & Publishers, 1985, pp., 211, Rs. 395

The Indo-Soviet Binational Symposium on Biological Macro-Molecules: Structure & Function, jointly sponsored by Indian National Science Academy and USSR Academy of Sciences, held at the Madurai Kamraj University, was attended by outstanding specialists in the disciplines of biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology, areas of interface between physical, chemical and biological sciences, both from India and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has an established research programme in these frontier areas of life sciences where significant advances have been made. Recently, India was selected for establishing an International Biotechnology Institute by FAO. The proceedings of the symposium give a clear index of the significant achievements in the sphere of biological macro-molecules.

PROGRESS IN MICROBIAL ECOLOGY, by Prof. J.N. Rai *Festschrift* (edited by K.G. Mukerji, V.P. Agnihotri, R.P. Singh), Print House, Lucknow, 1984, pp., 653.

This *Festschrift* is a humble dedication of contributors and fellow plant pathologists and microbiologists to Professor J.N. Rai for his outstanding researches in the field of Mycology, Plant Pathology and Microbiology on the eve of his superannuation (60 years on July,

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1983).

(The volume incorporates critical reviews on various aspects of the ecology of important plant pathogens like Fusarium, Phytopthora, Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Sclerotium, Sclerotinia, bacteria and nematodes as also those of rusts and powdery mildews; fungi present in unusual habitats like Usar and mangrove soils, polluted waters and soils amended with organic and inorganic substances including fung-toxicants; fungi present in spermosphere, rhizosphere, and phyllosphere. Ecology and distribution of pathogenic fungi, myxomyetes and mycorrhizae have also been reviewed.

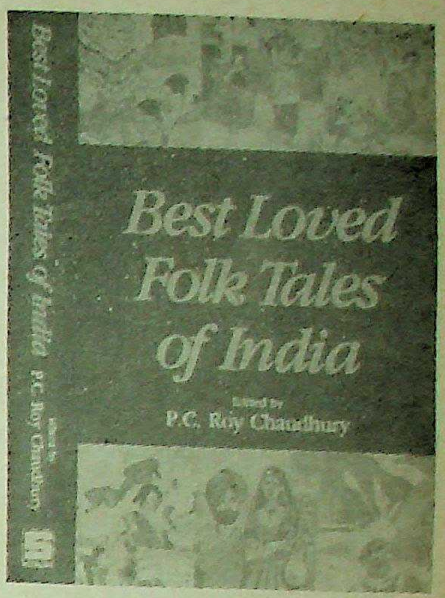
Literature and Folk Tales

BEST LOVED FOLK TALES OF INDIA, by P.C. Roy Chaudhury, (ed.) Sterling, New Delhi, 1985, pp., 390, Rs. 200

India is a treasure trove of folk tales born out of the folklore and customs of the country. Sometimes the same tales are retold in different regions, of course, imparting the local flavour to them. The mobility of the folk tales can be attributed to the pilgrims and travellers moving from one part of the country to another. More often than not the folk tales are passed on from the grandmother's lap to the grandchildren so vividly that they are impressed in the child's memory for ever.

These folk tales are delightful and fascinating to the young as well as the old and the listeners are kept enthralled by the story teller. The same story heard repeatedly does not lose its interest as it caters to the fantasies, the make-believe and the primitiveness in us giving inexplicable joy.

These beautiful folk tales of India were on the verge of extinction when a project of compilation of 21 volumes, consisting of the folk tales of different regions was launched. India, a vast mosaic of various hues of religions, customs, beliefs, dialects and cultures, is reflected in the tales. The best loved folk tales have been gleaned from the larger collection, thereby presenting a miniature India.



FOLKLORE OF NEPAL, By Man Mohan Sharma, Vision Books, New Delhi, 1982, 216 pp., Rs. 80.

This work presents English translations of some 70 selected folk tales and legends and 25 folk songs from the oral tradition in various Nepalese dialects. The folk tales and legends cover a large range of subjects from the supernatural to common household customs, including legendary princes and princesses, fate and portents, nature beings (demons etc.,), magic, family relationships, old customs, etc. In the end, the author has included a chapter on common Nepalese proverbs and idioms to acquaint the reader more fully with traditional thought patterns and expressions. Thus the subject matter will provide the reader with an insight into the beliefs, aspirations, norms and values of common Nepalese folk.

The book also contains an introduction to Nepal, its physical features, people and geopolitical importance.

LITERATURE AND SOCIETY : Selected Essays, by P.C. Gupta, People's Publishing House, New Delhi, 1983, pp., 244, Rs. 50

Gupta's major precoccupation in all these essays has been a consistent study of literature from the angle of the working people. He had been well versed in Marxist literary criticism since his student days. Ralph Fox, Christopher Caudwell and similar other Marxist literary theorist critics peep through the essays. Like these critics, Gupta was also endeavouring to formulate laws of aesthetics and of literature from the Marxist standpoint. From the Indian theory of the Rasas to the twentieth century short-lived literary aberrations like

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surrealism or cubism literary-aesthetic theories are examined with balance and historical perspective.

One can dispute some of Gupta's formulations, and cavil about some of his judgements. One can even say that no literary-aesthetic theory or laws emerge from his essays. But the fault cannot be blamed on Gupta. He was in the process of development and he died before he could reach maturity of judgement and attain the required proficiency in the application of Marxism to writers and their works or to literature in general. Moreover, there has not been much literary Marxist critical activity in our own country. This feature retards the development and maturity of individuals aspiring, as Gupta did, for maturity in Marxist literary-aesthetic theory.

THE MAHABHARATA; A Literary Study, by Krishna Chaitanya, Clarion Books, New Delhi, 1985, pp., Rs. 175

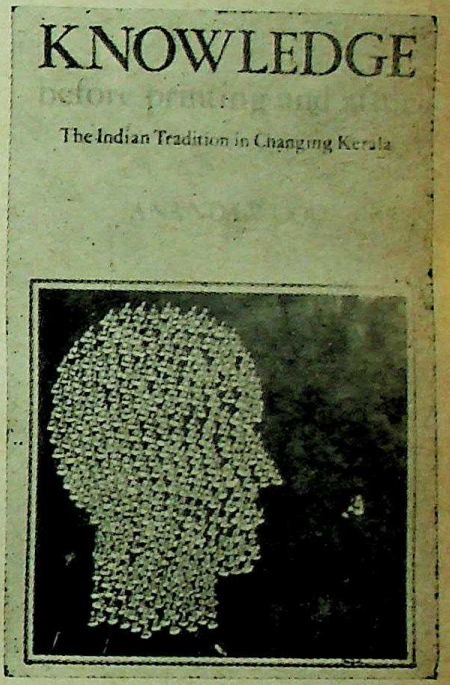
The Mahabharata is the greatest epic poem in the world, being eight times as long as the Iliad and Odyssey put together and three and a half times the Bible. Revered as a religious text by the people of India, it has been recognised by people all over the world to be a classic of world literature, too. Though studies of some facets of the work are available, there has so far been no comprehensive and detailed literary study of the work. This is being offered for the first time in this work.

The *Gita*, which is a part of the epic, has been extensively studied and in many languages, but as a detached text. The author shows that the *Gita* cannot be isolated from its embedding in the epic and has analysed its message in detail, the space devoted to this being as extensive as in most of the books on the *Gita* that have been published. There is also an outline summary of the epic as well as an analysis of the major characters and crucial episodes.

A dedicated work by a writer who is the author of a five-volume philosophy of freedom and a ten-volume history of world literature, its analysis of the philosophy of the epicis against the background of the major currents of world philosophy, old and new, eastern and western, and the literary evaluation matches the highest standards of criticism anywhere in the contemporary world.

Mass Media

KNOWLEDGE BEFORE PRINTING AND AFTER : The Indian Tradition in Changing Kerala, by Ananda E. Wood, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1985, 199 pp., Rs. 120



Apart from the introduction of printing, newer communications systems revolutionized the organization of knowledge and enabled it to be expressed with an open flexibility that has transformed modern capabilities and attitudes. Today, information and education are able to spread much more widely than ever before, thus fostering the growth of democratic attitudes; and modern communications have opened up far more extensive contacts between people than was possible in traditional civilizations that had not developed the use of printing. In particular, modern physical science and technology have advanced spectacularly through improved recording, transmission and co-ordination of information by sophisticated communications media.

What then do we have to learn from traditional civilizations like that of India, which have only recently begun to use modern communications and to express themselves in modern terms? This book tries to answer the question by providing a degree of historical perspective to the process of modernization. In discussing this question, Dr Wood describes traditional systems of passing on knowledge through direct personal contact

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and with relatively little use of external communications media. His descriptions are taken from Kerala in the last century or so, where modernization has been actively pursued from the unbroken base of an ancient, continuing traditional culture. Dr Wood concludes that, while traditional civilizations lacked in extensive external media, and thus in knowledge of the external world, they did not lack in direct, intensive, human communications. They developed a knowledge of the human head and heart that we have not yet learned to express or understand in modern terms.

BEHIND THE BY-LINE: A Journalist's Memoirs, by M.V. Kamath, Vision Books, New Delhi, 1985, pp., 268, Rs. 100

The memoirs of a journalist who, for a major part of his career, worked as a foreign correspondent based in Europe and the USA during an eventful period. The detailed account of his long and varied experiences is rewarding in itself. But the book has more to offer; also contained in its sweep is a glimpse of the growth and development of journalism in the past four decades. There are portraits of great newspapers and great newspapermen, anecdotes and reflections that add richly to the book's merit and readability.

INTO THE NEWSROOM : An Introduction to Journalism, by Leonard Ray Teel and Ron Taylor, Prentice Hall of India, 1985, pp. 192, Rs. 35

Here is a complete and authoritative introduction to journalism specifically written to help the aspiring journalist better prepare himself for a career in newspaper reporting. Emphasizing the basics of journalism as practised today, two award-winning reporters take you into the Newsroom where you'll get an inside feel of what really goes on. They start by telling you how to approach your first reporting assignment and follow with scores of helpful hints on how to do your job from wading through resource materials, to coming up with great story ideas, from taking notes to writing news stories and features. They even tell you how to coax stiff-necked officials for interviews and how to deal with some of the most obstinate people you'll encounter—the editors.

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Military Science

TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS OF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES, by Major General Chand N. Das (Retd.), Vision Books, New Delhi, 1984, 518 pp., Rs. 350

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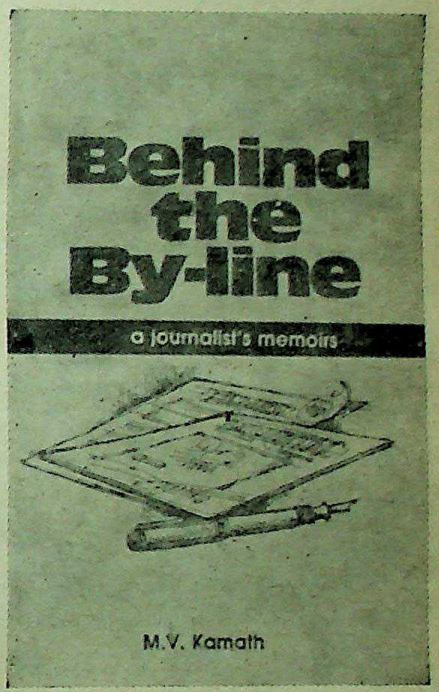

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Reference

COMPETITION SUCCESS REVIEW YEAR BOOK 1985, edited by S.K. Sachdeva, Competition, Review Pvt Ltd., New Delhi, pp. 928 Rs. 40.

A reference work for candidates appearing for competitive examinations. The contents are divided into six parts : Current Affairs, Topics of the Year, Fundamentals, India and the World, Year at a Glance, and Who's Who. There are also five illustrated features, and an exhaustive index.

Religion and Philosophy

COMPARATIVE RELIGION : Concepts & Experience, by Rajendra Verma, Intellectual Publishing House, New Delhi, 1984, pp. 165, Rs. 80

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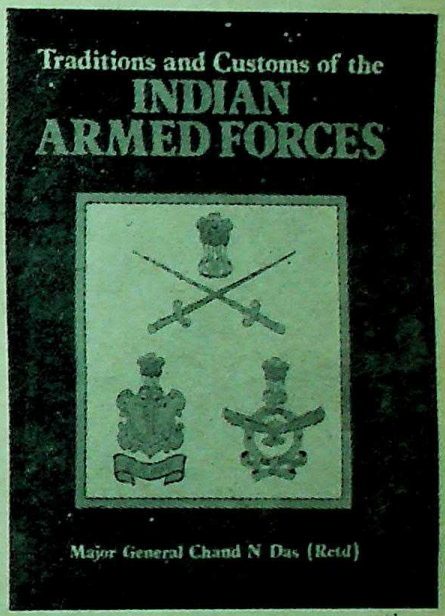

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN INDIA : A Historical and Constitutional Study, by Dhirendra K. Srivastava, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, 1982, 339 pp., Rs. 100

The problem of religious freedom is of very great importance for a country like India which has been not merely the birthplace of some religions but also a congenial home for all the major religions of the world. Its historic past too gives ample testimony to this claim. Indeed, most of the ancient Indian rulers followed the unique policy of aiding all religions. Muslim rule in

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India during the medieval period was far more enlightened than Muslim rule elsewhere. With the establishment of British rule, India came in contact with secular ideas and thoughts of the West. After independence, the Indian Constitution, passed in 1950, guarantees to every person, subject to necessary limitations, the right to profess, practise and propagate religion.

Against this rich and varied historical and political background, the author in this inter-cultural and inter-disciplinary study, examines and analyses the various faces of the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom in India. Some important questions like those of state neutrality, restrictions on personal laws and banning of cow slaughter have been critically examined in their historical and constitutional perspectives.

Nowhere in the world is there a richer diversity or a deeper interplay of historical, social, cultural and ethnic influences in the religious field than in India. The fine threads that intertwine to make up this complex tapestry cannot be appreciated or sorted out nor their diverse colours clearly perceived without sympathetic understanding and patient research. These two qualities will be found in abundant measure in this scholarly book.

SIKH CONCEPT OF THE DIVINE, by Pritam Singh (ed.), Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 1985, 223 pp., Rs. 60 (de luxe) Rs. 48 (Paperback).

All religions are unanimous that the Ultimate Reality is unfathomable. In the Sacred Book of the Sikhs, Guru Granth Sahib, one may come across any number of divine attributes, but those which must have struck the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, as the most prominent and essential ones were woven by him into a short rhythmic composition, called the Mul Mantra, the seminal formula consisting of 14 basic structural units.

The book presents scholarly opinions on the philosophical, sociological and theological aspects of the basic credal formula. It contains selected papers presented at a U.G.C. Seminar on Mul Mantra organized by the Department of Guru Nanak Studies in 1973. Besides, three more papers on related themes which were secured later have also been incorporated.

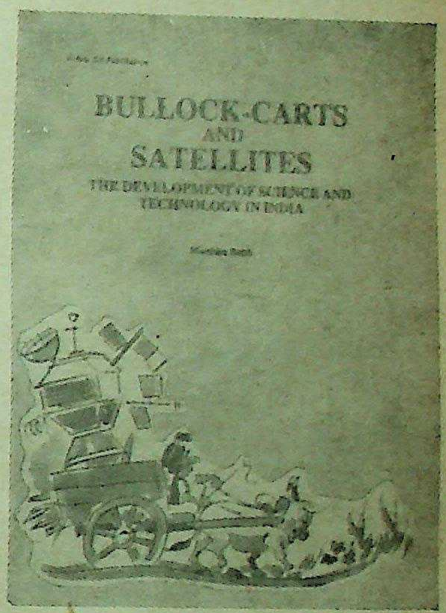
SECULARIZATION IN MULTI-RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES, by S.C. Dube & V.N. Basilov (eds.), Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, pp. 322, Rs. 80

The Soviet Union and India are both multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-religious societies. Their experiences in matters of cultural autonomy, religious freedom and national integration have many parallels, but also many significant differences.

This volume brings together twenty-one papers presented at the Indo-Soviet Symposium on Secularization in Multi-religious Societies, held at Tashkent in November 1978.

There are eight Indian and thirteen Soviet contributions which deal with a vast area of individual and social life influenced by the existence of religious beliefs, institutions, and practices and by transformations taking place in them ideologically, structurally, and historically.

Societies marked by cultural pluralism and religious diversities will find in the book a guide to the formulation of cultural policy, to the diffusion of information and to scholarly analyses of the subject.



Science and Technology

BULLOCK-CARTS AND SATELLITES: The Development of Science and Technology in India, by Monisha Bobb, National Book Trust, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 64, Rs. 5

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The image of India as a scientifically backward country came about in the last few centuries when there was a change in the conditions that had nurtured the spirit of scientific enquiry that existed in ancient and medieval India. This happened for very specific reasons.

The chaos that resulted from the disintegration of the Mughal empire was a deterrent to research and technological progress and the two centuries of British rule that followed did little to foster the modernization of the Indian industry. And so it was that in the last couple of centuries, India's past scientific contributions and achievements tended to be overlooked, and its future technological potential not recognized.

This technological and scientific potential came into its own after India became independent in 1947. Since then, there has been substantial growth in areas as varied as agriculture and electronics, medicine and physics, in fields and laboratories across the nation. This scientific progress has not arisen out of a void. It is the logical result of India's history of technological discovery and innovation.

FRONTIERS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY : A Selected Outlook, National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine (USA), Prentice-Hall of India, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 227, Rs. 35

This volume is the projection of the growth and direction of science and technology for a five-year period. Specifically, such outlooks identify national problems to which science and technology pertain, and also outline opportunities and constraints in their use. The report deals with eight growth points of American science and technology and draws "more fully the relation of science and technology to the very large and kaleidoscopic agenda with which the nation must deal". These points are covered in separate chapters that span from genetics to robotics.

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USSR-INDIA : THE PATH TO STARS, Edited by Valdimir Shatalov, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, 188 pp., Rs. 150

This book is about the joint efforts of the USSR and India in conquering outer space and about friendship between these two great nations. The Indian experience vividly testifies to the fact that its space endeavour is the logical result of its having opted for the road of peaceful development for the good of its people.

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WORKSHOP CALCULATION AND SCIENCE, Vol. I&II, by P.M. Sankara Subbiah, Muthu Publications, Palayam Kottai, 1985, pp. 138, Rs. 16

FITTING TOOLS AND PRACTICE, Vol. I&II, by P.M. Sankara Subbiah, Muthu Publications, Kottai, 1985, pp. 146, Rs. 16

Both these books are intended to help trainees in industrial training institutes. The subject matters are illustrated with graded problems. The language used is simple.

Sociology

THE HERITAGE OF THE SIKHS, by Harbans Singh, Manohar Publications, New Delhi, 1985, 398 pp. Rs. 150

Odd as it may sound, the Sikhs—a unique religious community in the world—have, by and large, remained unsung. The epic story of this dynamic community has lain buried in private and public archives for a long time. Of late, however, scholars, historians and writers have increasingly turned to the rich ores of Sikh civilization and quarried significant patterns and *leitmotifs* which define the existence of this community. *The Heritage of the Sikhs* is among the most distinguished in the line.

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PRIBES OF ARUNACHAL RADESH by P. Thankappan Nair, Spectrum Publications, Guwahati, 1985, 325 pp., Rs. 165

Arunachal Pradesh, unlike other parts of India, is inhabited by tribal people of an almost uniform standard. The under-administration of this north-east frontier territory before independence has left the tribesmen to their own lot, thus preserving their rich cultural heritage in its pristine purity. Little attempt has been made to study these interesting tribesmen.

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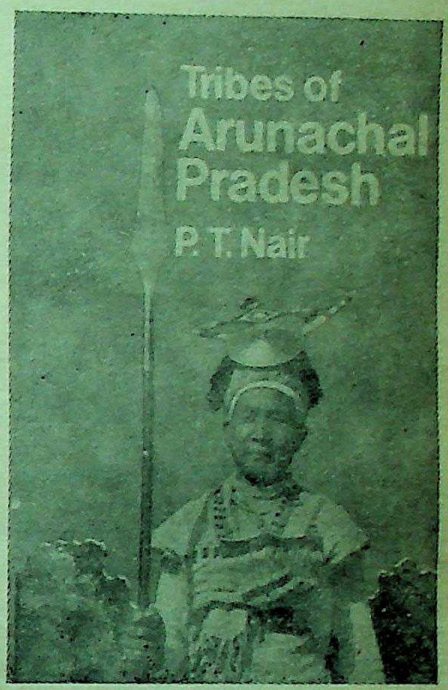

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE KHASI PEOPLE, by Hamlet Bareh, Spectrum Publications, Guwahati, 1985, pp., 526, Rs. 220

Considered to be the first of its kind on the subject, the book contains a detailed treatment of many basic subjects of ethnography, culture, politics and history. Emphasis has been laid on the evolution of Khasi society. The matrilineal form of organisation, its megalithic and religious aspects are reviewed in the light of their chronological history and the nature of their civil institutions. The main purpose of the work is, therefore, to present sources of information.

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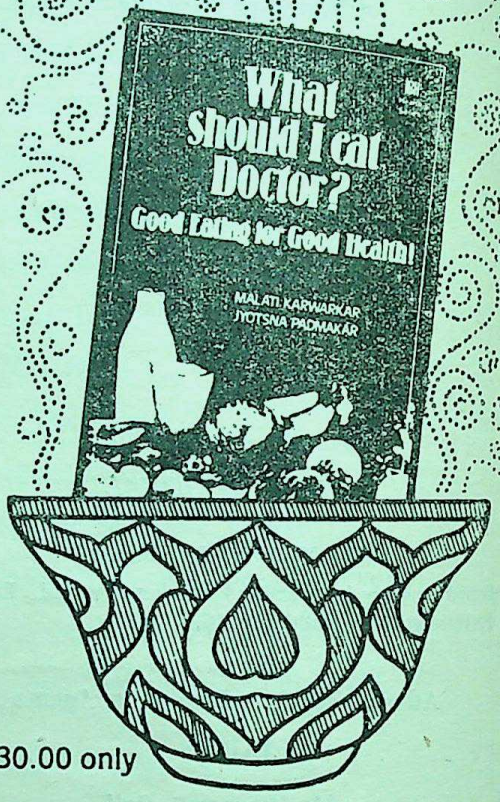

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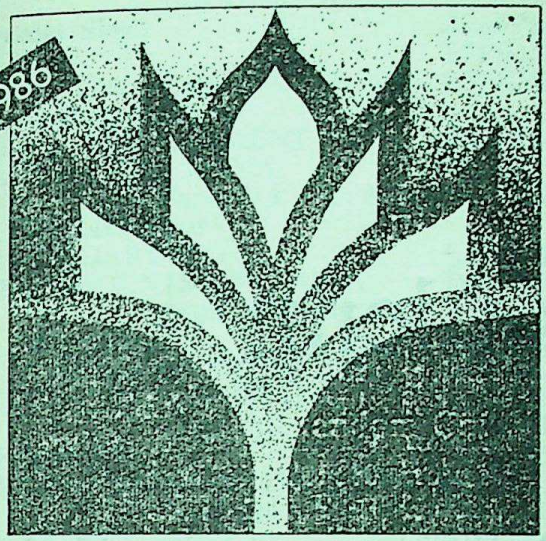

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BY N. J. KROM
IN FIVE VOLUMES

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D.N. MALHOTRA*

The State of Indian Publishing: Problems & Prospects

The Present Situation

At the present moment, we are passing through times of great turmoil in the history of the civilised man. Terrorism and communal hatred have cropped up their ugly head in our country and elsewhere in the world also. Man has become enemy of man, and standards of decent behaviour are eroding. If one comes to think deeply and tries to raise the question as to what has happened to the civilised community all of a sudden, why are our moral standards deteriorating, we feel perplexed.

On the one hand, we are advancing in the areas of industry, technology and nuclear science, while on the other hand, the behaviour of men and nations towards their neighbours whether in Asia, the Middle East, Africa or within our country is fast deteriorating. Why do sentiments of fratricide instead of fraternity germinate in the minds of men? Let us pause and ponder as to what we can do about it. We, who are in the field of dissemination of knowledge, have a special obligation in this regard towards our society. One is frequently reminded of the important words in the preamble of Unesco's Charter, i.e., "Wars begin in the minds of men and it is in the minds of men that defences of peace should be built."

This is a great truth and it impinges a great responsibility on all those who work in the field of communication of ideas - the authors, the publishers, the journalists and the media men.

We believe that out of all the media of communication, the most lasting, the most deeply influencing, is the book - much more than the Radio, the T.V., the cinema, the magazines and the newspapers. All these other media give consolidated information to the people at a very high speed, many a time undigested, untested and may be one-sided too. It is books alone wherein the authors spend a lot of time in thinking during the process of writing a book for communicating ideas which may have far-reaching effects. Many books in the history of man have created revolutions, changed the course of history and given to human race new perspectives in the very art of life. Books influence the thinking of princes as well as paupers. Books can be Machiavelli's "Prince", Tolstoy's "War and Peace", Gandhi's "Autobiography", or the ancient "Upanishadas" or Buddha's philosophy of "Non-violence".

I have to emphasise this point because at the present juncture, so much importance is being accorded to the audio-visual and electronic media; and so much encouragement is being given to these by the policies of the Government that one gets the impression as if books have been relegated to the background. The quality of human life in terms of longstanding effects can be improved more by good books than by any other media.

UNESCO Book Development

The Unesco started taking a keen interest in the field of books and book development in early sixties. It enunciated the theory that 'if developing countries wanted to accelerate the pace of their economic and industrial advancement, they must give an important place to books and book promotion so that better-equipped citizens are produced who would raise the standard of their countries at a higher

*This article is based on the address delivered by the author as President of the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Indian Publishers held in New Delhi on July 11, 1985.

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pace'. Special Book Development Centres were established by Unesco in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Arab world. It was observed that highly advanced nations and top book publishing nations were synonymous. The leading industrialist nations of the world—USA, USSR, UK, France, Germany and Japan—were the largest book publishing countries of the world. Unfortunately, developing countries have been slow to give heed to this advice of Unesco, while advanced countries have been putting in great efforts to promote their book publishing activities. India established a National Book Development Board as early as 1967, reconstituted it in 1971 and again established a National Book Development Council two years ago. Thus, we have been making some efforts in the direction of book development, but, I am afraid, in a halting manner.

If we observe further the movement for Book Development and Book Reading in the international field, we find that Soviet Russia, which is one of the great book publishing and book reading nations of the world, first promoted the idea of an International Book Year which was celebrated in 1972. This idea was further cultivated and in 1982 a "World Congress on Books" was organised in London. At this Congress, a clarion call was given to all the nations of the world to make human society a Book Reading Society. The important role of books in the progress of human civilisation can never be over-emphasised.

Indian Publishing in World Context

Now, let us see where we stand in India in the field of creation of books, publishing of books and the promotion of the book reading habit. In terms of world statistics, we can derive some satisfaction to note that we are the eighth largest book producing country in the world in terms of the number of new titles published every year. We again feel encouraged at the fact that in terms of the publication of English language books, we are number three after USA and UK though a very much lower number three. But, if we analyse these figures and assess them in their proper perspective, we get two types of feeling—one, a feeling that we are somewhere in the picture of world publishing and be proud of that, but secondly, if we look at these figures from the point of view of our total literate population which is 35.4 per cent of the inhabitants of this country which would come to about 250 millions, our total book production is infinitesimally small. We realise our insignificance not only in terms of the statistics against this background but in actual terms of substance also. We realise that we are lagging quite far behind in the field of books on science, technology, engineering, medicine, nuclear sciences; and the quality too of our books is not of the world standard.

Let us examine where we stand today, what are our aspirations and goals and what are our problems. As I pointed out earlier, the Indian publishing community has done a commendable job in being able to acquire the eighth position in the world in spite of so many limitations, obstacles and hurdles which have been there all these years. After independence, Indian publishing has acquired a stature of its own in all the Indian languages as well as in English. There has been a tremendous activity from the smallest publishers working as one-man units to the large publishing corporations in big cities. We have been taking part in International Book Fairs all over the world whether it is in Frankfurt, London, Cairo or Singapore. We have close relations with the publishing fraternities of all the countries in the world. Our Federation is a very important member of the International Publishers Association with its head office in Geneva. As a matter of fact, we act as the Asian Regional Office of the International Publishers Association. We participate in international seminars. Our members are invited to conduct training programmes in publishing and participate in symposia not only in developing countries but in the advanced countries as well. Some of our leading publishers have acquired a position of great respect and significance in the international world of publishing.

My view is that we have achieved all these things in spite of great handicaps. Therefore, if those handicaps were not there or were removed, we could have been and can, in future, be one of the greatest publishing countries of the world. Our future responsibilities and our area of publishing is firstly to supply books to our own people in all the Indian languages and then to publish books for the world market, as we have fortunately the capacity to publish books in the English language which is a medium of international communication.

Now let us examine the hurdles which come in the way of the Indian book publishing industry.

Educational Publishing and the Independent Sector

The greatest setback suffered by Indian Publishing after independence came in late fifties, when text-books started to be nationalised in the various States. Ultimately, it has come to a position wherein most of the school text-books have been nationalised and have become the domain of Text-Book Bureaus of Government. The justification offered at the start of text-book nationalisation was that, firstly, the Government wanted to give low-priced books to the poor students and, secondly, they wanted to improve the quality of text-books. Both the objects were

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laudable. But how far have these been achieved? The pertinent question is whether these could have been achieved by the sector of independent publishing as well. A lot of debate has taken place in this respect. Great educationists have expressed their doubts about the validity of the successful achievement of these objectives by the sector of nationalised text-books.

Another important point has also been raised: whether in an independent vigorous democracy like ours, the State should monopolise to itself the right to publish text-books and feed the young students on the reading materials conditioned to the political party in power? This question of politics playing part in eroding the national character of text-books has been raised because of the experience in Kerala and West Bengal where in the latter case even a book by Tagore was thrown out of syllabus.

If there were mistakes or problems in the private publishing sector there were strong points also. One publishing house used to compete with many others to produce the best text-books. Now where is that variety of text- books for the students or the teachers to select from? Is the same text- book good enough for the best as well as the average student? Are the books produced by the public sector really cheaper in prices in terms of their total expense to the National Exchequer? Is it not possible for the independent publishing sector also to produce those very things on equal terms?

It is high time that the question of giving an equal opportunity to the independent publishing sector was seriously considered. Our publishers are supplying educational books to other countries in the world. Are they not good enough to do that job here also? NCERT has done a lot of research and the Government has spent a lot of money in the development of good text-books. But why should this fund of research remain the monopoly of the NCERT alone? Why should not this be made available to independent publishers to produce books with that fund of research being made available to them? There are a lot of such important questions which are being debated and even a committee of the National Book Development Council is looking into it. But what we expect of the present Education Minister, who is a person of unbiased ideas and independent approach, to open up the whole question without any prejudice and take a bold decision.

Text-books

It is a well established fact all over the world that the basic support of all independent publishing comes from text-books. Some people call it the basic bread of publishing industry because it gives an assured quantum of business and work to them. By making this secured base available to the independent publisher, he can take a lot of risks to publish books on new subjects and venture into new areas. The books which are meant for life-long education of the entire population are not the school text-books. If the citizens of a country were fed only on school text-books and later on they have no general books, self - education books and How-To-Do books, they fall back into a state of de-education. The world is progressing in the field of knowledge at a very high speed. Those people who are in their adult - hood and do not try to learn about computers will be left behind soon. The general books as we call them whether in the field of paper-backs, children books, How - To - Do books and books on higher science and technology, cannot be published by independent publishers unless they have a solid base of educational publishing with them. Even creative books whether fiction, poetry, biographies or classics have an important role to play in ushering in social revolutions in the country.

We have seen during the last one decade that our publishing industry is on way to shrinking. Fewer number of books are being published year after year—from a total of over 20,000 books annually, we have come down to about 12,000 books. A large number of authors are feeling frustrated because they cannot find a publisher to publish their books. There cannot be a greater disappointment and suffocation if an author does not get a chance to be published. Fortunately, our country does not lack in talent in the field of writing books; but writing of a book is only half of the story. Unless a book is published, promoted and distributed to reach the hands of the reader, it is nothing. As a matter of fact, it is the publisher who plays the key-role in the creation of books. It is the spirit of venture of the publisher who discovers new talents and brings them before the reading public by taking the risk of publishing their books. In Hindi the word for publisher is very meaningful. He is called 'Prakashak', i.e., one who brings to light. I am afraid, the spirit of venture is diminishing because the publishing industry is being denied the vitality it could get from the publication of educational books.

Therefore, this whole question of sharing the field of educational publishing with the independent publishing sector is of great importance and needs to be tackled at the earliest, keeping in view the total perspective.

Financial Problems: Finance Corporations

We have another major problem facing publishers. It is the lack of capital generation in book publishing industry. You will find that no industrialist or big businessman ever takes to the profession of publishing. It is mostly done by individuals utilising their own small capital or taking help from families and friends.

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The nature of book publishing is a peculiar one. It needs more capital progressively to be invested year by year when new books are added to the list of a publishing house. Every book is published by the thousands but is sold to one individual each and some stock is kept to be made available to the new readers in the coming years. Thus a lot of capital of a publisher remains locked up in the stock of books. We have been approaching the Ministry of Education for many years to establish a Book Finance Corporation which should give loans to publishers on the basis of the social and cultural importance of the work of publishing rather than on the basis of the security or anything else they can give as a mortgage to banks. Such an institution should have an expert committee to recommend cases for loans and these loans should be either without interest or on very nominal interest which publishing industry can avail. Book publishing is a business which cannot afford to take loans and publish books on an interest of 15 to 18 per cent from the usual commercial banks.

May we point it out that while the Government has been considering the establishment of such a Book Finance Corporation all these years, one relief that was given to book publishing industry in terms of an income-tax concession vide Section 80 QQ of the Income-tax Act has unfortunately lapsed this year. This concession left some funds with the publishers to publish more books till they could get more funds. We have already approached the Government to get this concession restored.

Paper Crisis

One of the basic raw materials of book publishing is paper, the prices of which unfortunately have risen from 400% to 500% during the last one decade. It is out of all proportion to the increased cost of inputs of paper manufacturing industry. They have hiked these prices and have been holding the publishing industry to ransom without any check on them. Is it not an ironical situation that the prices of paper in New Delhi, paper to paper with equal weight and quality, are higher than those prevailing in New York and London? There is no other justification for these price hikes except the uncontrolled, unbridled greed of the paper industry which one wonders why our Government cannot discipline. The dream of making low-priced books available to the Indian people has been shattered and the entire area of low-priced paper-backs and children's books is facing a serious crisis. We have put before the Government a number of times that just allow even a minimum of 20 thousand tons of imported paper every six months, the prices of Indian paper will come to normal. This is a very small demand. We wish it could be met.

Import of Books

It is a very strange situation in our country that the import of books for the last few years has been put under OGL. The views of our Federation are quite clear on this matter.

We are committed to the policy of "Free flow of books" and fully support the import of books needed for higher learning and research, and of those texts in science and technology that are not being published locally. We do not favour a ban on the import of foreign books; but at the same time we cannot witness our market becoming the dumping ground for left-overs and 'remaindered' titles, and the consequent suffocation of the growth of our indigenous publishing industry. The present policy of the Government allows an unhampered import of all manner of books in large quantities, with scarce resources of foreign exchange being spent on overstock of foreign publishers. The major allocation of library funds is directed towards the purchase of such books. We have represented to the Government that the import of books be regularized and rationalized so that the best of books published anywhere are made available without the local industry being stifled.

We find that books of all sorts are being dumped into this country and all conscientious people are appalled to see dirty and obnoxious books being sold freely in the streets of all the metropolitan cities of India. Today our youth is being exposed more to the sexy and sensational stuff imported from abroad than getting an exposure to the works of our great writers: Tagore, Gandhi, Nehru, Vivekanand, R.K. Narayan or Premchand. Every country puts restrictions on imports, while our import policy on books is being practised more in breach than in observance. There is need for a thorough overhaul of this policy which has increased our book imports from 6 crores to 22 crores during the last 6 years.

Postal Rates

India is a predominantly rural country and the educated people are not just confined to the cities but are spread all over the country including vast rural areas. The problem before the literate and even the more educated people in the rural areas is to have access to books. Certainly, there cannot be bookshops in every town or village. The book needs of these people are served by transmission of books through post. We find that except for the small concessions on book-packets, the normal rates remain prohibitive so far as the carriage of books is concerned compared to the other costly commodities which can afford high postal charges. We urge that the question of existing concessions in postal rates being adjusted to the

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present prices of books be taken up so that these concessions become realistic and meaningful. Today the postal concession on VPP's are available only up to a book of Rs. 20/- which is irrelevant today. The prices of books have gone higher due primarily to the exceedingly high cost of paper which is not under the control of publishers. This question should be taken up with the Ministry of Communications at the earliest. People in the rural areas are literally starved of books. After a period of training in literacy many of the neo-literates fall back to illiteracy. The huge funds spent on adult education go down the drain unless there is a provision for the availability of follow-up literature at their own places.

Ministry for Book Promotion

Looking at the various problems of book publishing industry for which we look to the Ministry of Education, we find that a number of them fall into the domain of other Ministries. The National Book Development Council which has to deal with many Ministries finds itself a petitioner to those Ministries. These Ministries have their own way of thinking which is many a time conditioned more by financial considerations than by a motivation to help the cause of education and literacy in this country. Fortunately, due to the respect in which the present Chairman of the National Book Development Council is held our point of view is given consideration. But the basic lacuna, which we feel needs to be removed, is that those areas of various Ministries which affect education and books should be brought under the Ministry of Education. For instance, the import policy of books should be decided by the Ministry of Education and monitored within the Education Ministry rather than by the Ministry of Commerce. Similarly, the paper industry or at least a part of paper industry which should be tuned to produce cultural paper for book-production should be brought under the discipline of the Ministry of Education rather than its remaining in the Ministry of Industries. The recommendations of the Ministry of Education regarding postal rates should be treated obligatory in the Ministry of Communications and their adjustment in other financial matters should be their concern. If we treat the importance of books in proper perspective and their role in the progress of our nation we will have to re-structure some of the policies of the Government so that the writ of the Ministry of Education should be final on these matters.

I would venture to suggest that the best course would be to set up a separate Ministry for Book Promotion which should tackle all these matters mentioned above in a vigorous manner. Of course this Ministry should be under the stewardship of the Minister of Education so that the policies can be coordinated.

Educational Planning and Book Publishing Industry

We find that very ambitious schemes are being made in the field of Educational Planning for the coming years and targets are being fixed for the next century. We would like to propose that in the field of Educational Planning, because books play a very important part, publishers' representatives who know the parameters of book publishing should be represented on those bodies. They can surely give some assessment in the matter of provision of books in Educational Planning. This is a suggestion to be considered.

Awards for Publishers

The job of a publisher is not just profit-oriented. Unless a publisher has a sense of dedication to the cause of books, he cannot function successfully. Leaving aside those publishers who have entered this area under mistaken notions, the bulk of the publishing community is a dedicated lot who are performing their work with distinction. Publishers get more brickbats and seldom any bouquets.

It is our suggestion that on the lines of awards for film producers, directors, and others in the film industry, special awards for the personnel of book publishing industry be instituted under the Ministry of Education. The role of the publisher is like that of the director of a film who organises and directs the whole operation to produce a good film or a good book. It is not a question of a big publisher or a small publisher, but it should be dependent on the significant contribution made by any publisher in the field of publishing whether by bringing in books on new subjects or producing beautiful books venturing into new areas which others dare not tread because of the risk involved. The awards for authors and artists are different and there are many of them available today. But the difficult role of the publisher who organises all these things has not yet been appreciated. We would like this scheme to be considered sympathetically.

Indian publishers have a long way to go and many challenges to meet. They are a strong resilient lot who can deliver the goods. It is the duty of the Government not to ignore this situation and help Indian publishing in the larger interest of the advancement of the nation in all its aspects.

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NARENDRA KUMAR*

Exporting Academic Books from the Third World

Creativity is at the core of human development. It helps in building up a rich cultural heritage and constitutes an essential element in the process of economic and industrial development of a country. Books are the most potent products of intellectual creativity and thus make a substantial contribution towards promoting this process of development. The process can be accelerated by the widest possible dissemination of books and other printed materials.

The advanced countries in the world have already achieved a fair measure of success in this direction though their endeavours were also motivated by their desire to export their culture and way of life. Most of the countries in the third world have not been so fortunate. In the first place they started late as there was practically no national publishing activity prior to their attainment of independence from the colonial powers. Their initial efforts in this direction were inhibited by a multiplicity of factors, some of which continue to operate even today. In spite of many handicaps, the publishing activity in a large number of developing countries in our region have made appreciable progress. There also has been a spurt of creativity in some of these countries particularly in the field of scholarly writings during the last decade or so.

As stated in a paper circulated by the National Book Development Council of Singapore, the amount of research and scholarship in this region has taken a quantum leap. As a consequence of developments in higher education, new university presses and other scholarly publishing houses have been established. The universities in the region are beginning to be counted among the world's best producers and users of knowledge. As a result, the region is no longer completely dependent on Western journals and publishers. However, "the means to disseminate this knowledge and to transmit it to students and others, both within and without the region, show a more uneven pattern of growth."

The major problem before us, therefore, is to consider measures to facilitate dissemination of academic books within and outside the Asian Pacific region.

Situation in India

Before I venture to identify some of the measures in this respect, I would like to present, as briefly as possible, the situation prevailing in our country. As mentioned in the paper circulated by the Council, "India is emerging as an important source for academic materials", and that "some Indian publishers have gained a foothold in the Western Markets". Further, the situation faced by publishers in India and the experience gained by them in dissemination of scholarly books can be significantly relevant to other developing countries in the region.

India, as all of us are aware, enjoys a pre-eminent place in the field of international publishing. India is the third largest producer of books in English after the U.S.A. and the U.K. We publish on an average over 16,000 titles in various languages annually and in this regard we are among the first ten countries in the world. We can also be ranked as the largest producers of books among the third world countries.

In the field of exports, we supplied books and periodicals worth about twenty-eight million rupees to various countries during 1975-76 and the value of exports has since increased to nearly rupees 220 million in 1984-85. We export books to about 80 countries and the largest buyers are the U.K., the U.S.A., Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, besides a good number of West Asian countries. While the developed countries buy our books mostly on Indology, Art, Culture,

* Managing Director, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi.

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Yoga and on current topics of general interest, the developing countries import our books generally on scientific and technical subjects. The factors that have contributed to the substantial increase in our exports over the last decade can be briefly described as under :

(1) A large number of people of Indian origin constitute knowledgeable sectors of populations in the Gulf countries, Mauritius and Fiji. The number of Indians living in the U.K., the U.S.A., and Canada is also considerable.

(2) Indian books, particularly of university level, are relevant to the requirements of those countries in the Third World where English is the medium of instruction for higher education. Our style of communication in English is appreciated more in these countries as almost all of us have learnt English as a foreign language and our standard of understanding is more or less the same.

(3) India, because of her rich cultural heritage, variety of religions, diversity of traditions and multiplicity of communities and languages publishes books on a very large number of subjects catering to the various interests and aptitudes of buyers in foreign countries. It would be interesting to observe in this context that the purchasers of books, particularly in the West, choose publications on the basis of their subject-matter rather than the reputation of their authors or publishers.

(4) India, as a leading member of the Non-aligned Group, has been playing an important role in discussions on the political and economic affairs of the world. Consequently, there has been a growing keenness on the part of foreigners to learn more about the political, social, economic and educational conditions prevailing in our country. This has helped in promoting export of books on these subjects.

(5) The writings in the Indian regional languages have, of late, attained an originality and vitality of their own. Some of them can now be compared favourably to the creations of literary giants in the advanced countries. These books, in original or through translations, are finding increasing markets outside.

(6) The comparative low cost of Indian books has helped in promoting sales, particularly in the developing countries. The recent improvement in their production values has further helped to boost their sales.

(7) The increasing participation of Indian publishers, through official agencies and also in their individual capacity, in the international book fairs and exhibitions has also contributed to the increased sale of their publications.

(8) India has also established a national agency known as CAPEXIL (Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council) with the sole objective of promoting export of Indian products including books. The Council, through adoption of various measures including provision of subsidy for participation in the international book fairs and undertaking business trips abroad, has made material contribution towards promoting export of books.

(9) The initiative and exceptional enterprise shown by some prominent publishing houses and distributors have also opened up fresh avenues and new markets for dissemination of Indian publications.

Unfair Competition

It would be relevant to add that the progress achieved by Indian publishers in the field of exports over a period of ten to fifteen years is despite some serious handicaps that the Indian publishing industry has been facing for quite some time. The state has acquired monopoly over the publication of textbooks for 110 million students studying in schools throughout the country. The publication of school textbooks in India accounts for 70 per cent of the total publishing activity in the country.

Further, some unscrupulous jobbers in our country manage to import remainders, on a very large scale, particularly from the U.S.A. and the U.K. at ten to twenty per cent of their listed prices and sell them primarily to institutional libraries at published prices. This patently unfair competition has done incalculable harm to the scholarly publishing in our country. Besides, the U.S.A., under PL 480 programme, had been supplying a large number of highly subsidized books in various specialised academic areas. This fortunately has since been discontinued. However, the U.K. has been making available, for many years, a very large number of their highly subsidized publications as part of their ELBS programme. This practice has not only adversely affected the development of national creativity but has also harmed the commercial interests of publishers of scholarly books in our country. We are not against free flow of information, nor have we ever objected to the need for importing or acquiring books originating from other countries if their import was indispensable for meeting our academic requirements. We, however, feel that our authors have since acquired sufficient expertise to write on specialised subjects and we should therefore generally discourage the perpetuation of this policy.

The nationalisation of school textbooks, the large-scale import of remainders and the supply of highly subsidized books by some of the developed countries have deprived the publishing industry of a sound financial base which could enable them to undertake publishing programmes and projects which could lead to substantial increase in export of Indian books.

Despite handicaps, we have not done badly in promoting our exports. I however believe that in view of India's pre-eminent position in the field of publishing and existence of factors favourable to the dissemi-

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nation of our books on a much larger scale we could and should have done better in this field.

Regional Co-operation

I have made out these points relating to Indian publishing and export of Indian books in the belief that the situation prevailing in India is, in many ways, similar to the one prevailing among other developing countries of the region. The potential that India possesses for dissemination of books is also available in equal or less degree in some other countries in this region. There is, therefore, no reason that other countries should not attain a better status in respect of dissemination of their books, particularly in view of the vast strides that some of them have taken in development of creativity in the field of scholarly books.

However, as has been rightly spelt out in the paper circulated by NBDC of Singapore, "in a region where the resources and the potential market for scholarly books in individual countries does not permit the growth of a large book industry, regional co-operation becomes a key issue." Since the system of higher education in most of the ASEAN and other developing countries bears a remarkable similarity in approach and content and to a considerable extent, it also resembles the international system, there is tremendous scope for dissemination of publications among the countries of the region itself and also for their export to other countries. At present the free flow of information in various countries of the area is almost negligible. Publishers are perforce required to work in isolation in their own countries. It is nevertheless my firm belief that, with appropriate planning on a regional basis, it should be possible to work out programmes of co-operation among publishers of the region. In fact this should work out to be a three-tier arrangement under which developed countries, developing countries of higher order and developing countries of lower order can work out proper forms of cooperation in which the spirit of give and take predominates. While cooperation with the West has been a fact of life, more stress needs to be laid on the regional aspect. It should be possible for publishers in the region to work out suitable arrangements by avoiding duplication of efforts and by mobilizing resources for the common good.

Joint Ventures

I would like to make a few suggestions in this regard. These are :

(1) The ASEAN region should set up a coordinating agency which might identify the requirements of books for higher education in each country and also identify the availability of books and journals in various countries of the region.

(2) The agency should also undertake preparation and regular publication of bibliographies of books in different subject-areas and ensure its circulation among the countries of the region.

(3) Co-publishing is perhaps the most effective way of disseminating books in the region. The major publishing universities of different countries and publishers of university-level books should meet to identify various subjects, suitable authors and publishers for undertaking joint ventures, keeping in view the scope for wider dissemination of such books in the world market in general and the developing countries in particular. The co-ordinating agency can also render useful help in this regard.

(4) Translation bureaus be set up in countries of the region where scholarly books are produced and used in English as well as local languages. This should facilitate translation of good books published in English, into local languages and vice-versa wherever necessary. These bureaus could also help in translating books in local languages of one country into local languages of other countries in the region.

(5) Avenues should be explored to arrange promotion and distribution of books produced in the countries of the region on a co-operative basis.

(6) The countries in the region should be persuaded, where necessary, to adopt measures to promote import of books from countries of the region.

(7) There should be a well-thought-out programme of organizing workshops and seminars to suggest measures for exchange of useful knowhow, information, data, and suggestions for widest dissemination of books produced in the region.

(8) It is felt that despite the substantial progress made in the countries of the region for publication of scholarly books of fairly high standard, there is a need for professionalization of the publishing industry, in order to bring about improvement in the areas of editing, production, designing, marketing, distribution, public relations, financial and general management, etc. For this purpose, it would be helpful to establish publishing training institutes of a high standard for making necessary expertise available to the industry in the countries of the region. The efforts of such institutes can be supplemented by short-term *ad hoc* courses for training in selected areas in various countries of the region.

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TEJESHWAR SINGH*

Ensuring Success in Academic Publishing

Like most ex-colonial countries, India had very few educational institutions at the time it gained independence (1947). The government recognised the acute lack of trained manpower in all spheres and embarked on a massive expansion of educational facilities, especially at the tertiary level. In 1947 the country had only 18 universities and 1,171 colleges; today these figures stand at 132 and about 6,000 respectively.

Strangely and sadly, our planners never seemed to have felt the concomitant need to establish university presses which could act as conduits for the intellectual activities of faculty members. As a result, there are no university presses in India in the real sense of the term—i.e., a separate department located in an academic institution, staffed by trained professionals who can handle the selection, editing, production and distribution of books.

Quite a few Indian universities do, however, publish books and journals; but this is neither a planned nor a professional activity. Virtually none of the books published by Indian universities have made a significant contribution to knowledge; besides which, they are extremely poorly distributed. The same applies to the scholarly journals they publish.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that academic publishing in India is concentrated in the hands of commercial publishers. However, commercial publishers cannot afford to publish the brilliant micro-study or narrow scholarly theses which may interest only three or four hundred libraries throughout the world. This is the rule of the university press, properly understood. I am not suggesting that university presses should publish at a loss but that they can afford to publish on a "no-profit/no-loss" basis while commercial publishers cannot.

Prima facie, conditions in India are favourable for the pursuit of successful academic publishing. There is a substantial number of universities, colleges and research institutes. The total literate population is around 260 million and is growing every year. Per capita incomes have been rising steadily. Younger and more committed scholars are entering the teaching profession and are more rigorous in their approach to writing and scholarship.

Yet, despite all these favourable circumstances, the Indian academic publisher has not been able to establish a solid and on-going publishing programme. To arrive at an understanding of the reasons for this, it is necessary to consider the main factors that affect the scholarly publisher in India.

The Publishing Environment

The Government : Books have never formed a major element in official thinking. In a way this is understandable as the total annual turnover of the book business is a mere Rs 20 crores (approximately US $16.5 million) at a time when the NDP is in the region of Rs 1,800 billion (approximately US $150 billion).

Being a small and ineffectual lobby, the publishing industry is constantly being affected by government policies, many of which are not even aimed at it. The three most important areas where this happens frequently are : (a) *Paper :* Paper prices have risen by approximately 300% over the last 10 or 12 years. A major portion of this price increase has been caused by rising government levies both on raw materials and other inputs, and on the finished product. Paper mills have also been partially responsible for the increase in paper prices. They have created conditions of scarcity (and thus pushed up prices) by not producing all the paper they can.

* The author is Managing Director of Sage Publications, New Delhi.

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Publishers are not the major users of paper—government departments, political parties, industry and business, and the magazine/newspaper industry are. The first three are not price conscious, while magazines and newspapers are either able to absorb price increases or pass them on to the consumer in small doses so that they do not affect circulation.

Publishers can do neither. They have increasingly been forced to raise prices to the extent of around 250 per cent over the last 10 years. This has had an obvious impact on sales, especially because library grants have not increased proportionately. Many publishers have responded by reducing increases in prices and yet another drop in sales—and so the vicious circle perpetuates itself.

(b) *Library Funds :* All academic libararies are dependent for their finances on state funding and/or on grants received from one or other of the government's many agencies.

Since 1977-78, there have been a succession of administrative and political problems which have resulted in the fact that during the entire period 1977-85 there has been almost no year where academic libraries have received adequate funds for book purchases. Since during the 10 years prior to 1977, library funds had been adequate and had risen steadily every year, academic publishing had experienced a boom of sorts in the early seventies. The sudden and prolonged scarcity of library funds after 1977 came as a rude shock and has seriously affected the shape of academic publishing in India. There has been a sharp drop in the number of scholarly titles published over the past eight years. Academic publishers are no longer able to develop long-range plans with any degree of certainty.

(c) *Bank Finance :* The banking industry was nationalised in 1966 and has since been governed by official regulations. It is very difficult for publishers to get bank loans as unsold stock is not considered to be collateral. Even when they are successful in their loan applications, the interest rates are prohibitive because publishing is considered a high-risk industry in financial terms. So, Indian publishers are forced to generate the capital they need themselves. Since this is not an easy proposition few of them publish risky or marginal titles or can plan their growth and development as they would like to.

Library Purchases : Successful academic publishing throughout the world is heavily dependent on the purchases made by scholarly libraries. On paper at least, India has a sufficient number of such libraries to enable the sale of a profitable quantity of any academic title of merit.

Yet, these libraries face many constraints. One of these is the availability of funds as explained above. Another is the quantum of funds. The vast majority of college libraries have tiny annual book grants varying between Rs. 10-20,000 (approximately US$850-1700). This is meant to cover purchases of books and journals plus certain administrative overheads.

Another problem they face is that the process of selecting books is rather long-drawn-out and cumbersome. Also, extraneous factors (and not of the best sort) often influence the buying decision. Third, many academic libraries exist more on paper than in reality—the "library" if often only one tiny room, does not have proper shelving. and the 'librarian' is actually a faculty member who combines his teaching job with manning the 'library'.

In short, there are still not enough properly equipped, professionally-run academic libraries in the country.

Authorship : There is a paucity of reputable scholarly authors in the country. And the few that there are prefer to be published abroad. India does not have the tradition wherein published books and research articles are a major factor influencing academic promotions. Hence, there is little motivation for scholarly authorship.

The paucity of quality scholarly journals (there are only 6 or 7 of them in India, all published by commercial publishers) is another inhibiting factor. At the same time, many of the more senior academics—who should otherwise form a solid core of scholarly authors—have tended to become lazy and egotistical.

Language Fragmentation : As is well-known, India has a plethora of main languages (16) and dialects (over 200). This has had the effect of breaking up what is otherwise a potentially large market in book terms. Since each main language group is jealous of its linguistic identity, the medium of instruction in many colleges and even in some universities has changed from English to one or other of the Indian languages.

The Response

To state the obvious, Indian academic publishing operates in a very difficult environment. It is all the more unfortunate, therefore, that the response of scholarly publishers to the problems that assail them has been far from adequate and has, if anything, served to increase their difficulties.

Quality : Very few Indian publishers seem to be particularly worried about the contents of the book they publish. They act instead as middlemen between the author and the printer, never submitting books to the evaluation process. There are virtually no acquisition editors and hardly any desk or copy-editors in the business. All publishing decisions are taken by the proprietor or chief executive and the only yardsticks they apply are saleability and the bottom line. While commercial aspects such as profitability are certainly very important, they cannot be the sole guiding principle in successful academic publishing.

This approach has a number of

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consequences:

(a) The better authors prefer to be published abroad or by the tiny handful of scholarly publishers in the country who care about standards.

(b) Since the publisher (and often even the end-consumer, the library) does not worry about what is between the two covers of a book, this has had the subtle effect of encouraging laziness among authors and a consequent fall in standards.

(c) Indian books are not readily acceptable in foreign markets where libraries are much discerning about what they acquire.

Distribution : In an ideal world, book sales and distribution are handled by a network of wholesalers and retailers and the publisher only has to market his books.

Unfortunately, the book trade is in a very under-developed state in India. There are only two or three wholesale distributors in the country who handle academic books, both Indian and imported. Being heavily over-loaded, they have perforce adopted a superficial approach. The retail network leaves a lot to be desired. Bookshops and library suppliers are undercapitalised, few in number, and restricted in geographic spread.

One would expect Indian publishers to be more aggressive in their marketing in the circumstances but this is not the case. To be fair, the options they have are far from easy—advertising is very expensive and the results far too uncertain; promotion through the mail is also a costly proposition.

Indian publishers have responded instead by allowing a liberalisation of discount structures. This has resulted in a situation where librarians believe that all that they have to do is to insist on a higher discount and they will get it. And since they normally do, both they, and the public in general, have the impression that publishers earn fat profits.

In reality, such sales are being made either at a loss or on a very tiny margin, besides pushing up the retail prices of books. There is nothing wrong in liberalising discounts as long as this is done in a planned and rational manner. That this is not the case in India is proved by repeated examples of booksellers who buy at a 30% discount and sell at 28%, or of publishers who give retail discounts of 50% and more when the accepted maximum not too long ago was 33%.

This is one other reason why Indian academic publishers are unable to develop long-range perspective plans, or to generate capital to finance growth, or to employ professionals to ensure that certain standards are maintained.

Exports : Soon after 1977, when it became evident that the lack of library grants was going to be a prolonged affair, many academic publishers actively began to seek export markets. But this is easier said than done because :

(a) Obtaining access to and developing distant markets is a very difficult and costly affair.

(b) Academic libraries throughout the world have experienced serious budgetary problems in recent years and have become much more selective in their purchases.

(c) A book which studies an Indian situation is likely to have a very restricted market outside the country.

Towards Success

It would appear from the foregoing that the case of the Indian academic publisher is hopeless—he operates in a difficult environment and seems unable to do very much about it. But I believe there *are* many things that the Indian publishers can do to counter the situation and to establish conditions which would be conducive to successful academic publishing.

In outlining my prescriptions for a possible amelioration of academic publishing conditions, I shall touch upon some aspects of a more universal nature as also refer to personal experience.

Standards : Successful academic publishing can only be based on a quality list. While it is true that a publisher's most important raw material is the author, this does not mean that a scholar should be encouraged to believe that he is the final authority on a subject and beyond any constructive criticism.

Exports : This is not, in my opinion, a major solution. But since many Third World publishers, including Indian ones, are anxious to explore this avenue, I shall outline the reasons for my thinking.

As mentioned earlier, the first problem with exports is the subject matter of the book and hence its primary market. If the book concerns a global problem, or is a major contribution to theory or methodology, or deals with a region or country other than the one where it is published, then obviously exports must form a major consideration in the publishing decision. In reality, however, few books published in Third World countries fit any of these descriptions and hence their primary market is domestic.

Second, successful academic publishing must be rooted in a particular context. Scholarly publishers are basically in the knowledge business and their main role is, I believe, to enhance an understanding of the society and polity (in the broadest sense of the words) in which they are located. Contributions to theory or to science and technology are obviously welcome but they will always form only a part of academic publishing.

Third, a successful publishing enterprise cannot be based on exports. Export sales will always be subject to the vagaries and uncertainties prevailing in the importing countries. National economies throughout the

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world are under severe pressure and the funds available with libraries have shrunk everywhere. In such conditions, the imported book will be the first to be axed.

However, there is no denying that more needs to be done in this regard—both at the regional and the national level. When we talk of exports it is always in terms of selling to a western or industrialised nation—rarely (except in the case of textbooks or language material) in terms of exporting to each other. To some extent this is the result of historical situations. Our undergraduate political science students study the constitutions of Great Britain and the USA—not of Singapore or Malaysia. Yet, much more can be done in terms of selling our books to each other than is the case at present. It is time for our scholarly community to realise that a study of, say, the ethnic policies of the Government of Singapore is much more relevant for us than an understanding of American policies towards the blacks and vice-versa.

At the national level, Indian publishers need to set up cooperative efforts to explore export markets. At the moment, each publisher goes it alone, sets up his export arrangements and rarely, if ever, shares information. If Indian publishers were to pool resources and approach export sales as a common effort, then much more headway can be made in this respect.

Cooperation : In fact, what is sorely lacking in the Indian book business is a shared perception. Instead of seeing themselves as important links in the same chain, publishers, wholesalers, exporters and booksellers are often at loggerheads with each other and pursue divergent and often conflicting policies.

This only weakens their case further and encourages policy-makers and administrators to take them lightly. The current free-for-all in discount structures has severely damaged both the economics of publishing and the image of the book industry. Book-sellers have to become more professional and operate on basic norms in conjunction and cooperation with the publisher and the wholesaler.

This is almost a *sine qua non* for successful academic publishing, at least in India.

Distribution : The best publishers in the world are those who not only produce good books but are able to sell them effectively. The trouble with the book as a commercial product is that (a) it is not a need-based item; and (b) it is virtually impossible to scientifically determine how many copies of a particular title can be sold.

Because distribution has been one of the weakest elements of the book business in most Third World countries, the trend is towards playing safe and reducing print runs (and thereby increasing prices).

This I believe is a disservice to the author and a partial negation of an important aspect of a publisher's role —distribution. Third World book markets are not static. New institutions are set up periodically, the number of book-buyers is increasing in our countries, as is the money available with them. In fact, an expanding book market is one of the greatest assets of publishers in Third World countries.

While First World publishers have understood this and have increased their penetration into the Indian market of late (the new Penguin company set up in India last month being the latest example), Indian publishers have gone the other way and have become increasingly cautious. They have accepted faulty and half-baked market intelligence at face value and altered their policies accordingly.

An essential element of successful academic publishing has to be solid and well-designed marketing on a continuing basis. If publishers are successful in creating demand, the book-sellers will obviously supply it. This also places the publisher in a stronger position vis-a-vis controlling discounts.

Specialisation : Most academic publishers in India are generalists and publish everything from medical treatises to the humanities and even fiction. This means that their marketing efforts are spread very thin.

A coherent editorial policy and specialisation in a particular (but reasonably broad) field is an important determinant of success in academic publishing. It enables a publisher to concentrate on a particular group of authors. Simultaneously, it allows him to chalk out pointed marketing strategies.

Textbooks : Many argue that a scholarly publisher should not publish textbooks. I frankly do not see the logic of this. On the contrary, a high quality textbook list can serve to strengthen successful academic publishing, first, by providing additional finance to underwrite the publication of monographs and research studies; and, second, by influencing young minds who later may become teachers and book-buyers.

However, this comment is not being offered in the framework of ensuring successful academic publishing as this is largely a question of each publisher's policy.

First World-Third World Cooperation: I have very mixed feelings about this. I personally believe in the importance of global cooperation in the publishing business—co-editions and the free granting of reprint rights, for example. At the same time, Third World publishers are not yet in a position to offer enough titles which would interest First World publishers on either bases, and so the balance of this traffic will remain heavily in their favour for a long time to come.

Such one-sided activity has the effect of perpetuating the centre-periphery syndrome in knowledge. Second, while reprinting foreign

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books or importing and selling them at reasonable prices will certainly assist Third World publishers financially, it is also likely to inhibit the development of indigenous authorship (at least in the short-term context).

So, while not averse to seeing greater First World-Third World co-operation, I would advise caution and would not recommend it as a major element in successful academic publishing for Third World countries.

Multiplicity of Languages : While India basically has a very large book market in numerical terms, this advantage is considerably weakened by the existence of a number of languages within the country. In the context of academic publishing, there is frankly no easy solution to this problem.

Translation is not just a costly affair, it is also a complex process. Most of our regional languages have not as yet developed sufficient vocabularies to handle social science concepts or scientific terms. At the same time, it is important to publish original or translated scholarly books and journals in all national languages. Our regional languages are gathering strength and more tertiary level instruction is being conducted in these languages. The time is not far when scholarly publishers in India will have to seriously consider publishing in more than one language.

Yet, all said and done, English will perhaps always be the dominant language of academic publishing. In India, for example, while a mere 2% of our literate population has English as its first language, more than 40% of the books published in the country are in English. I see nothing wrong with this. While a Hindi speaker may not know Tamil and vice versa both of them are more than likely to be proficient in English. And since the scholarly book as a contribution to global knowledge must also be made available in other countries (even if in tiny quantities), it is, I believe, correct to publish it in a language which is understood virtually throughout the world.

Summary

Here, then, is my summation of what makes a successful academic publisher (not necessarily in order of priority) :

1. He is conscious of the need to maintain standards in terms of the contents of the books he publishes.
2. He has a well defined editorial policy and probably specialises in a discipline or a set of related subject areas. He keeps abreast of developments in that field and identifies and cultivates suitable authors.
3. He employs adequate trained staff.
4. He is conversant with the potential market for his books and is willing to adopt the most suitable means in his circumstances to ensure that the potential buyers are aware of the books and journals he is publishing.
5. Both his editorial policy and his sales and marketing effort are firmly rooted in the national or regional context. Scholarly publishers are in the knowledge business and while they should contribute to global knowledge, they will be successful only if they assist an exploration of their own society and polity and if they publish the best of the scholarly output of their country.
6. He has a long-range perspective and a well-thought-out growth scenario. Yet, he is flexible enough to suitably alter or fine tune his plans in changed circumstances.
7. He does not ignore exports but is not dependent on them.

Because the individual publisher does not exist in isolation, it is only fair to say that the pursuit of successful academic publishing is also conditional on the existence of a favourable operational climate. Some of the main aspects in this respect are :

1. Third World Governments must become more responsive to the needs of their respective publishing industries : properly priced paper, financial support and the development of a network of libraries being the most important. For, as has been rightly said, "an independent publishing enterprise is crucial for developing countries.... Without an indigenous publishing enterprise, a nation is doomed to 'provincial' status and will continue to be dependent on outside elements for its intellectual sustenance." (Philip G Altbach, *Publishing in India*, New Delhi : Oxford University Press, 1975, p. 3).
2. To assist this process, the book business as a whole has to thrash out a common perspective so as to present a united front in its effort to influence policy.
3. Book-sellers, wholesalers and library suppliers need to develop a professional approach to the business of selling books.
4. Finally, Third World countries should develop stronger linkages among themselves in terms of selling books to each other.

—Paper presented at "Seminar on Academic Publishing in the ASEAN Region" (organised by the Festival of Books Singapore Pte Ltd in association with the International Development Research Centre), Singapore, 9-11 September 1985.

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R.K. MALHOTRA*

Publishing in a Welfare State

Statistically speaking, India ranks seventh in the world in book publishing and comes third, after the United States and the United Kingdom, in publishing English titles. Twenty thousand new titles are published every year in India. The present student population of India is over 100 million, looked after by nearly one million educational institutions. There are about one thousand government agencies or autonomous bodies, and nearly 11,000 private publishers, including over 1,000 author-publishers in the country.

These statistics, as compiled after a UNESCO survey, look flattering but their impressiveness is nullified by the equally staggering figures of 200 million illiterates in the country and barely four per cent of the world's book titles with an average of 1,000 print run, particularly of scholarly books. We import annually books worth 75 million rupees. About 80 per cent of the turnover in the book trade accounts for institutional sales, barring, of course, the textbooks.

Important Facts

These facts point to five important factors that bring into sharp focus the problems of publishing books : (a) absence of readers due to a low state of education or widespread illiteracy resulting from explosion of numbers, particularly in developing countries where the population is increasing more rapidly than school enrolment; (b) absence of tradition owing to inadequate library facilities; (c) scarcity of good authors coupled with bleak prospects for new local talent; (d) high costs which are hounding out the private sector; and (e) the government's apathy in not recognising publishing as an industry.

Educational publishing comprises making and selling of books for school and college students. This has become a big business in Indian publishing, as textbooks prescribed for a course of studies have an assured sale. Publishing scholarly books is a highly specialized branch of publishing. It is one of the noblest duties of a university to publish scholarly and general books, for it helps to advance knowledge and diffuse it far and wide.

In 1972 the First World Book Fair was organized in India to mark the International Book Year, with the slogan 'Books for Millions'. The Publications Division of the Government of India, the Sahitya Akademi, the National Book Trust, the National Council for Educational Research and Training, the Hindi Granth Academies, the State University Textbooks Boards and publishing houses of some of the major universities have, no doubt, done some pioneering work in book publishing, but the 13-year-old slogan of 'Books for Millions' remains a fiction. There is an urgent need to integrate the promotional programmes involving all major agencies engaged in producing books. So far there has been emphasis either on literature for the elite or on literature bordering on pornography. Thus, there is an imperative need for a coordinated plan of action to promote literacy and literature, which uplifts the quality of life on the one hand, and to minimise the production of trash and diseased literature, which unfortunately gets the seal of 'popular literature', on the other. Hunger for good books has first to be created and then satiated in our multilingual country.

Distribution Drawbacks

Print-culture cannot be replaced by electronic mass media as the former is the starting point for the dissemination of knowledge and the latter certainly looks up to it to understand the social milieu in the growing forces of democratization

* Secretary, Publication Bureau and Press, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

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e new opportunities provided by revolutionary technologies. Books on man, his technology and his arts are the crying need of the hour, for they are the repositories of any age's wisdom and are undoubtedly the best means of its communication. Every publishing house worth its name has three departments—editorial, production and sales. Many a book development programme comes to a nought because they concentrate on production and neglect distribution. Inadequate marketing mechanism and inefficient distribution channels are the worst bane of the book trade. Unless, fast, safe and low-cost transport facilities, preferred postage and freightage are made available by the state, the interest of the world of books will continue to suffer.

Funds for announcement and promotion expenses following publication are often curtailed, which prove injurious to desired public awareness and sales. Book distribution suffers from many drawbacks, such as non-availbility of credit, or return privilege, leading to under-ordering by retailers which has restrictive effects on the trade as a whole. Pre-publication offers and remainder sales can be best made by display ads, reviews, exhibitions or by direct mailing to leading booksellers and institutions. In the absence of a direct market, field canvassers, credit facilities and sale-return basis, the only good promotional tool that can be effective is the mailing list, announcing liberal trade discounts.

There is no denying the fact that until and unless there comes up a national book foundation and/or a national book development board with large funds to finance publishing activity, there is no hope to sustain this much-needed live-wire of mental development of the coming generations, for the printed word is the *sine qua non* of a enduring civilization and culture. The three prerequisites of paperbacks, i.e., mass production, low prices and mass distribution, must be put into practice to end the book famine in the country particularly in the rural areas. The general reading public is still hungering for suitable reading materials. The private and public sectors must work hand in hand for a common cause. They have to co-exist in the larger interest of the country and its people, for we are committed to a welfare state.

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S.K. MOOKERJEE*

Publishing Is Not for Profiteers and Unprofessionals

In spite of the many significant achievements made in the field of audiovisual materials and electronic products, books remain the cheapest and most convenient vehicle for the dissemination of knowledge and education. As a means of storing knowledge, too, and in spite of increasing costs, an adequate and generally acceptable substitute for books has yet to be found.

In many ways the objectives of a genuine and creative publisher are akin to those of an educational institution—the attempt to locate talent and foster knowledge—and therefore his is not just another business.

Let us however not forget that a publishing house, despite its special charateristics and role, is also a business enterprise, except in occasional circumstances when it receives subventions from governmental or institutional sources, and a reasonable profit is not only justified but essential. Moreover, in the environment of mounting inflation in which publishing must function, no publisher can survive without growth and profitability.

Apart from ideological considerations, i.e., that profiteering is not in the nature of good publishing, there is, to my mind, little scope for profiteering in publishing. A publisher rarely writes his books, he sells them through independent booksellers. He does not often manufacture paper and does not normally print or bind the books he publishes. He therefore has comparatively little control over pricing. His sales proceeds are shared by all these agents, his share being earned for his editorial and production input, entrepreneurship and capital. Yet it is the publisher who has to shoulder all the risks of a commodity which has always been in the buyer's market when all other commodities at one time or another have been scarce and therefore hold the advantage of a seller's market.

Economics of Publishing

Let us take a close look at the economics of publishing. It is popularly believed that publishers, since they price their books at four or even five times the unit cost, earn a huge profit. If however we study the arithmetic of the publisher's earnings when he fixes his price at even five times the unit cost, which is not often, we discover that his earnings are lower than in almost any other kind of enterprise. If the unit cost of a book is Rs. 20 and he fixes the price at Rs 100, he will have to give the wholesalers 35% or more, 10%—15% to the author as royalty and pay 20% towards his production expenses. He is left with 30% with which to cover his overhead expenses (salaries, rent, working expenses, warehousing interest, etc.) amounting to no less than 15%. To this must be added the risk of unsold stock, shortages, long collection periods, bad debts, etc. Once we have deducted these costs from his published price, we will find he is left with a very modest margin indeed. This is an extremely slender basis for growth or profitability.

There are built-in constraints which prevent the greedy publisher from over-pricing his books. The chief of these is the buyer's market in which he operates, where a limited number of buyers have access to books on similar subjects from a large number of sources. A publisher who tends without reason to raise his prices above a competitive level will find his rival's list making headway at the expense of his own. This is an effective check. Prices have to be competitive, for, sadly, books have a very low place in the average family's budget. When economies have to be effected, and in an inflationary environment this is a frequent necessity, the first to feel the axe is the book.

Since book publishing is not a very capital intensive enterprise, competition is intense and often unhealthy, with small unprofessional publishers mushrooming all over, and this is a

* The author is Deputy General Manager of Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

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world-wide phenomenon. The adverse effects of this competition are very pronounced in India where booksellers, wholesalers and even printers turn to publishing once they have established themselves. Many of them have come into existence simply by exploiting the credit facilities that other publishers have had perforce to extend. Such mushroom growth inevitably retards the growth of professionalism and creative publishing. An unprofessional publisher with a narrow financial base often cares little for, and has little competence to evaluate the quality and merit of the books he publishes.

Need Attracts Talent

There is a belief, often justified by experience, that a small edition of 500 copies of any book will sell provided a high discount is allowed as an incentive to wholesalers to promote them vigorously for library and institutional purchase. The success of this method has led to a proliferation of books of low merit published with little effort or risk being sold at the cost of others of greater academic worth. The purchasing power of libraries is limited and if the former category are exposed more frequently to library buyers, fewer in the latter category can be bought. Nor does a sure-sale small edition do justice to a book whose real potential is not fully exploited because the publisher is not prepared to face any risk.

Since returns from publishing are inadequate and uncertain, no capitalist or business magnate of any standing in India has entered it. To me this is not a cause of great regret for I feel that over-mechanization and commercialization will kill the profession itself. Publishing involves a large element of subjectivity, instinct, experience and specialized skill in finding, editing, producing and popularizing a really good book. This gives publishing a personal element that is missing in many other enterprises and constitutes a large measure of its charm and the challenge it offers. Ideally, what one would like to see in India are publishing firms started by talented and enlightened young people with necessary financial support who are prepared to combine an honourable profession and moderate financial returns. Such firms should be free from proprietorial domination and will pay enough attention to employment conditions and decentralization of decision making so that they may attract talent and vitalise the profession.

I appreciate the importance and necessity of amalgamating a number of publishing units, each maintaining its independent identity and specialization. The main purpose of this horizontal integration is perhaps to economise overheads and distribution costs and not necessarily to gain the economies of scale. Largescale production in industry as a general rule is meant to reduce costs and improve profitability. What would happen if this rule were applied to publishing beyond a point? Almost everyone needs a tube of toothpaste or a shirt, so given an adequate commodity and market research, advertisement, etc. the market would seem well-nigh limitless. But could this be said for any book?

Magic of the Word

Industrial products can be made to give technical specifications, but no good, original book can be written to a precise scheme. Even if a close approximation was achieved, could it be said with any degree of certitude that it would be acceptable to more than a very limited number of individuals? No, the magic of the written word cannot be programmed or fitted into an industrial straitjacket. The book must remain, if it is to survive, the preserve of professional publishers dependent on human judgement, instinct, expertise, experience and individual preference. As long as this is true profitability in publishing will remain low and opportunities of profiteering negligible.

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KALA THAIRANI*

COPYRIGHT IN INDIA

In India the right to intellectual property is recognized and protected by the Copyright Act of 1957. Earlier the copyright law was governed by the Indian Copyright Act of 1914. After the attainment of Independence in 1947, it was felt that there was need for a comprehensive review of the subject. The Copyright Act of 1957 is a comprehensive measure and provides a consolidated law relating to copyright. It repeals the Indian Copyright Act of 1914 and came into force on January 21, 1958.

The Copyright Act of 1957 incorporates the principles of copyright law of the country. The Act provides (i) a statement of works which will enjoy the protection of law; (ii) a definition of the persons who enjoy such protection; (iii) a statement of the nature and extent of protection; (iv) a list of exceptions outside the purview of copyright control; (v) assignment of copyright; (vi) legal remedies available to a copyright owner for enforcing his rights; and (vii) statutory arbitration in cases of dispute.

Salient Features of 1957 Act

The main provisions of the Copyright Act are :

Works eligible for protection : Copyright subsists in published as well as in unpublished works. All works first published in India are entitled to copyright protection. A work first published outside India is also entitled to copyright protection if its author, on the date of publication, was a citizen of India. Unpublished works of Indian citizens or persons domiciled in India enjoy copyright protection.

Section 40 of the Copyright Act, 1957, also provides for extension of copyright protection to works of nationals of countries who are signatory to either the Berne Convention or the Universal Copyright Convention. The Government of India, through the International Copyright Order, 1985, has extended copyright protection provided under the Indian Act to all works first published in either Berne or UCC countries, or both.

Section 13(1) of the Copyright Act, 1957, confers copyright on original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works. The word "literary" in copyright connotes all works expressed in print or writing. These would include dramatic works, musical works, artistic works and cinematograph films, records or other mechanical contrivances.

Copyright includes the exclusive right of translation, that is to say, the sole right to produce, publish or perform any translation of the work. Prior permission of the author is required for bringing out a translation of any work. Copyright also subsists in the translations brought out as original work (Section 14).

Term of Copyright : The term of copyright for literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work published during the lifetime of an author is the life span of the author plus 50 years after his death. In the case of joint authorship, the *post-mortem* period of copyright protection is 50 years from the date of the joint author who dies last. For works published anonymously or pseudonymously, the period of copyright protection is 50 years from the date it is first published. Copyright in photographs, cinematograph films and records endures for a term of fifty years (Sections 22 to 28).

First Owner of Copyright : The Copyright Act provides that the author who has created the work is the first owner of copyright. The copyright of the work made in the course of an author's employment by the proprietor of a newspaper, magazine or similar periodical vests in the proprietor to the limited extent for publication of the work in the newspaper, etc. All other rights, such as publication of the work in the form of book, translation rights, cinematograph rights, public performance rights, etc. remain vested with the author (Section 17).

In the case of commissioned work

* The author was in charge of the Book Promotion Division and Registrar of Copyrights in the Education Ministry from 1980 to August 1985.

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the copyright of the work vests with the person who has commissioned it because he pays valuable consideration to the author for executing it. A photograph, a painting or a portrait falls in this category (Section 17b).

Assignment : Section 18 of Copyright Act deals with the assignment of copyright. It is important to remember that copyright does not consist of a single right but it comprises a group of rights : publication rights, translation rights, cinematograph rights, etc. The author can assign these rights wholly or partially to different assignees who may exercise them independently for the whole term of copyright or any part thereof. Such assignment is not valid unless it is in writing and is signed by the assigner.

The Act provides for granting of licences which must be in writing for exploitation of any specific rights.

Registration of Copyright : The Copyright Act, 1957, provides for registration of copyright and a copyright office is functioning in the Ministry of Education since 1958. Section 44 of the Act provides for entering the names and titles of works in the Register of Copyrights. The author, publisher, or owner having any interest in copyright may make an application for registration of copyright in the appropriate form. Section 45 empowers the Registrar to make an inquiry in regard to the title of the work before the work is registered. The orders of the Registrar of Copyrights are appealable to the Copyright Board at the instance of the aggrieved party.

Such registration, however, is entirely optional and is not a prerequisite for copyright in the work.

No formalities are required for works eligible for protection. Consequently, non-registration does not debar the owner of copyright from claiming his right in his work. The main advantage of registration is that it provides a *prima facie* evidence of ownership of copyright and is admissible as such in all courts.

Copyright Board : Section 11 of the Copyright Act provides for the setting up of a Copyright Board consisting of not less than three and not more than eight members. Under Section 6 of the Copyright Act, the Copyright Board is empowered to hear certain disputes as to whether the copies of a work have been issued in sufficient quantities to constitute its publication. The Copyright Board is also authorised to grant compulsory licences for translation of foreign works into Indian languages and reproduction of Indian works in cases where the work is withheld from the public because of refusal of the copyright owner to publish the original or translation of his work.

An important feature of the Copyright Act is that it regulates the activities of the Performing Rights Societies functioning in India for the public performances of the copyrighted works in their repertoire. Under Section 33 of 1957 Act, the Performing Rights Societies functioning in India are required to prepare and file with the Registrar of Copyrights the tariff they propose to charge for public performances of their works. They are also required to be published in the *Gazette of India* and in two newspapers within three months after the commencement of the Act. Any person can lodge an objection before the Copyright Board on the ground that the tariff charged is unreasonable or exorbitant. The Copyright Board after hearing both parties is empowered to fix the tariff which it considers reasonable and the revised tariff will be effective for public performances of their works.

Furthermore, the Copyright Board is authorised to fix the rate of royalties for making sound recordings of any copyrighted work, if such recordings have already been made. The Board is also empowered to hear cases filed by aggrieved parties in respect of entries made in the Register of Copyrights. In short, the powers of the Copyright Board are that of a civil court and the Board is empowered to hear appeals against the decision of the Registrar of Copyrights. Similarly, the decision of the Board can be challenged in the higher courts.

Enforcement : The test of a good law lies in its enforcibility. Provision of any substantive rights in the Statute Book cannot confer any rights unless there is some machinery to enforce those rights. Under the Copyright Act, owners of the copyright are provided with a dual machinery for enforcing their rights, namely, (a) through the Registrar of Copyrights and the Copyright Board, and (b) through the courts.

Any person whose copyright is violated can institute necessary civil and criminal proceedings in the appropriate court. Legal remedies provided in the Act are to be found in Chapters 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Amendment of the Act

The Copyright Act, 1957, conforms to the provisions of two international conventions on copyright of which India is a member, namely, the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and the Universal Copyright Convention. Both these conventions were revised at Paris in 1971. The revised Paris Text (or the Paris Act) provides for certain special concessions to enable developing countries to grant compulsory licences for translation and reproduction of foreign works required for educational purposes in accordance with a prescribed procedure.

In order to update our copyright law and to bring it in line with the revised Paris Text, the Indian Copyright Act of 1957 was amended in 1983 with the specific purposes of (a) incorporating the provisions of the Paris Act (1971) concerning the grant of compulsory licences for translation and reproduction of foreign works required for instructional purposes; (b) providing ade-

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quate protection of authors' rights; and (c) removing administrative drawbacks and other lacunae experienced in the administration of the Copyright Act, 1957.

Provisions for Translation and Reproduction : Section 32 of the Indian copyright law contains a provision on the lines of the provision in Article V of the Universal Copyright Convention (1952) which enabled any contracting state, developing or developed, to grant a licence for translation of any work in any language in general use in that state (subject to the conditions and procedural requirements stipulated in that Article) if the owner of the right of translation did not make and publish such translation withins seven years from the publication of the work, or, if he had published such translation, it has become out of print. There is no restriction in regard to the export of copies of translation made under the licence.

In the amended law, Section 32 has been enlarged and, under the newly added provisions, it provides for compulsory licensing for the translation of foreign works for educational purposes after a certain period in the prescribed manner. The waiting period is three years for translation "in a language in general use in a developed country" (i.e., English, French and Spanish) and the waiting period is 1 year for translation in a language "not in general use in any developed country" (i.e., Indian languages). Under this amendment, broadcasting organisations are also permitted to translate works for broadcasting for purposes of systematic instructional activities. An application is to be made to the Copyright Board and the conditions subject to which the licence can be granted, including the provision for grant of compensation, have all been set out in the law.

It has been specifically provided in the amending law that copies of the translation, under the new three-year or one-year regime, cannot be exported, except to the limited extent of an export by the Government to its own citizens in another country, with the permission of the Government of that country, for purposes of education, scholarship or research.

Similarly, new Sections—32A and 32B—have been added, providing for the compulsory licensing of reproduction of any foreign work for purposes of systematic instructional activities after the expiry of certain periods (which will vary depending on the subject matter of the work), provided copies of such works are not available in India at reasonable prices.

The procedure to be followed by the Copyright Board and the conditions subject to which a licence can be granted, including the provision for 'due diligence' on the part of the applicant to obtain authorization from the owner of copyright, grant of just compensation, non-export of copies, have all been set out in the law. Such a licence shall be non-exclusive. Section 32B provides for termination of the licence under certain conditions as stipulated in the Paris Act.

Author's Rights : The primary purpose of the copyright system is to enable the author, by the exercise of his rights, to earn his living. In practice it is common knowledge that authors are not always fully aware of the intricacies involved in negotiating the contracts they execute with their publishers. To meet such situations Section 19 has been amended and provision has been made in the Act requiring every deed of assignment of copyright to indicate clearly the rights proposed to be assigned and the size of the work. A new provision (Section 19A) has been made in the Amendment Act, enabling the aggrieved person to move the Copyright Board for redress of grievances in regard to royalty payment, delay in publication of a work or differences on the terms of the contract.

The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 1983, came into force on August 9, 1984.

Piracy : The Copyright Act was further amended by the enactment of the Copyright (Amendment) Act, 1984, with a view to checking widespread piracy of books, sound recordings and films. Under the amending Act, which came into force on October 8, 1984, necessary provisions have been made to combat piracy by making punishment for various offences more stringent. Infringement of copyright has been made a cognizable and non-bailable offence. Among other things, the Act provides for enhanced punishment for the infringement of copyright, namely, imprisonment up to three years with a minimum punishment of imprisonment of six months as well as a fine up to Rs. 2 lakhs, with a minimum of Rs. 50,000. The amending law provides for enhanced punishments in the case of second and subsequent convictions as well as seizure of duplicating equipment.

These provisions have had a deterrent effect and there is a perceptible decline in the marketing of unauthorised cassettes of films and sound recordings. A writ petition for stay of the Copyright (Amendment) Act of 1984 was filed in the Supreme Court on October 8, 1984, by D.B. Hemdev of M/s Hemvision, Bombay, *Vs* the Union of India. In fact, several writ petitions seeking stay of the Act have been filed all over the country. On this issue the Supreme Court held a preliminary hearing on March 18, 1985, and passed orders rejecting the pleas for stay orders.

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SREEDHAR PILLAI

Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai: The Boat to Fame*

His realm is the shrunken and scarred underbelly of society, where the underprivileged and life's losers huddle together for false comfort—the landless serf, the weary worker and the impoverished fisherman. They are his subjects and his reign over them has been supreme and unquestioned. But only now, in the twilight of his enormously productive years, has Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, 73, the grand old man of Malayalam literature, been finally crowned king. Recently, Pillai received the most coveted literary laurel in the land, the Jnanpith Award for 1984.

It is a measure of the boundless and legendary humility of the man that the announcement of the award surprised no one but himself. "It is a matter of great satisfaction for me to win the greatest literary award in the country. I hope the Jnanpith will make me more humble than ever before," he said almost apologetically. And yet it is this characteristic humility and compassion that has earned him the reputation of one of the most sensitive and perceptive writers in the Indian language. Thakazhi's entire literary journey has been as a chronicler of the social struggles and sorrows of the lower classes in his native Kerala. But there is a stark and stunning universality in his protagonists, be they peasants or poachers. From his most famous *Chemmeen* (The Shrimp) to the most recent *Kayar* (Coir), each of his 35 novels and 500 short stories bears testimony to this. Acknowledges Dr. K.M. George, chairman of the Jnanpith advisory committee for Malayalam : "Thakazhi's fertile imagination is adept in weaving stories of the underdog who has been insulted, humiliated and abandoned and through his intimate grasp of social realities he makes a passionate plea for social change."

Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai

Born in 1912 into a feudal landowning Nair family in Thakazhi, a village in Kerala's rice-bowl Kuttanad, the writer acquired his insight and sensitivity from his circumstances and surroundings in his impressionable years. It was in this village that the leftist movement in the state gained ground in the early '50s when the communists began organising underpaid and landless labourers.

Says well-known novelist and former bureaucrat Malayatoor Ramakrishnan, who looks on Thakazhi as his mentor : "He has always been a spokesman of the working class and his novels bring out the class struggle prevailing at that time." As a lawyer at the Ambalapuzha mofussil court, Thakazhi found himself in regular contact with the people he was to later write about with such eloquent passion : poor fishermen, bonded labourers and rich landlords. He was moved by the plight of the downtrodden and the injustice that abounded. His genuine indignation and sympathy found expression in his writings and was to dictate his themes for a long time to come—the pathos in his stories and his fervent message of change.

But it was also a message of many interpretations—change in society, change in the system and, most important, change in literary expression.

* Courtesy: *India Today*, August 1985

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In fact, Thakazhi is credited with having freed Malayalam literature from its stagnant traditional mould by adopting, along with his contemporaries, Neo-realism and other trends. Though his initial writings showed the pronounced influence of Maupassant and Chekov, he gradually developed his own distinctive style and idiom.

His literary style did not, however, go down well with some critics. Noted Malayalam critic Professor Krishnan Nair still maintains that language is not Thakazhi's strong point. "I would never consider him the greatest Malayalam writer because Pottekat and Kuttykrishnan have command over the language while Thakazhi's language is rustic," he says, but also admits that his stories jar the social conscience.

Literary Style

Literary criticism apart, his is a simple, lucid style and the common man about whom he writes can readily identify with it. His uncomplicated technique has given the genre of the Malayalam novel a new dimension. Proof of this was the sensational success of his very first book, *Puthumalar* (New Flowers), a collection of short stories published in 1934. This was followed by equally successful novels like *Prathipalam* (Reward), *Thottiyude Makan* (The Scavenger's Son), *Patithapankaam* (Fallen Lotus) and *Randidanghazi* (Two Measures of Paddy).

It was *Randidanghazi* that established him as a major novelist. The novel explores the root of the relationship between the exploiter and the exploited, the landowners and the bonded labourers. Through the interweave of his characters' destinies, Thakazhi laid bare the crime and shame of this age-old relationship. He still calls it his favourite novel. Another captivating novel from his pen is *Eanippadikal* (Rungs of the Ladder) which has as its background the state secretariat of the erstwhile state of Travancore. Set in 1930-50, the novel deals with political opportunists who kick the very ladder they use to climb to positions of power.

However, it was *Chemmeen*, his epic novel on the fishing community of Kerala, that brought him the Sahitya Akademi award in 1956 and world-wide fame. Not only this, it was translated into more than 50 languages all over the world and the Malayalam film made on it by noted director Ramu Kariyat went on to win the President's gold medal and major awards abroad as well. The novel was a moving documentation of the trials and tribulations of fishermen trapped in the net of circumstances. Though the focus is the lovelorn life of a poor fisherwoman, the perspective expands to take in her whole social context.

Still others rate *Kayar* as his *piece de resistance*. It is the tale of a community unfolding through six generations and two centuries with over a thousand characters living out their chequered lives on its 1,028 pages. Dr. V.K. Narayana Menon, Thakazhi's English translator, writes in the preface to this book : "I have not come across an Indian novel of *Kayar's* dimension; its breadth of vision and its profound insight into the life of people who rise with dignity even after being caught in the wheels of time and change." In fact, it was *Kayar* that decided the Jnanpith jury in selecting him for the award, his second this year. In January, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan.

Thakazhi writes without notes and takes his own time writing. In fact, his magnum opus *Kayar* took 20 years to complete before it was finally published in 1980. Says Thakazhi : "I have a specific idea of the life I want to depict. But I myself do not know what would be the end of the novel." He says he is committed to the common man and it is his problems that he wants to portray. "Being a farmer myself, I know the difficulties of the peasants," he says. His lifestyle too reflects this identification with his ordinary, everyday characters. He admits that he was influenced by Karl Marx in his initial years, but gradually the Marxism gave way to Gandhism. He says he has outgrown ideological commitments, but still thinks in terms of Gandhian philosophy.

Changing Scene

At the same time, the realism in his writings has become increasingly tempered with romanticism. Confesses Thakazhi : "The Kuttanad that I used to know has changed and the working class has become more affluent." Which is why, perhaps, he has now focused on the middle class. He is now working on a novel set in this milieu and it promises to be different from all his earlier works.

In keeping with his simplicity, he attributes his success to his wife, Kamalakshi, whom he fondly calls Katha. It was she who inspired him to write and who looked after him as he laboured at his desk. As Katha herself says : "His dedication to his work has got him the award." At 73, Thakazhi has no more ambitions but to continue knitting his tapestries of life and death and injustice, enriched and made unique in the hands of a master weaver.

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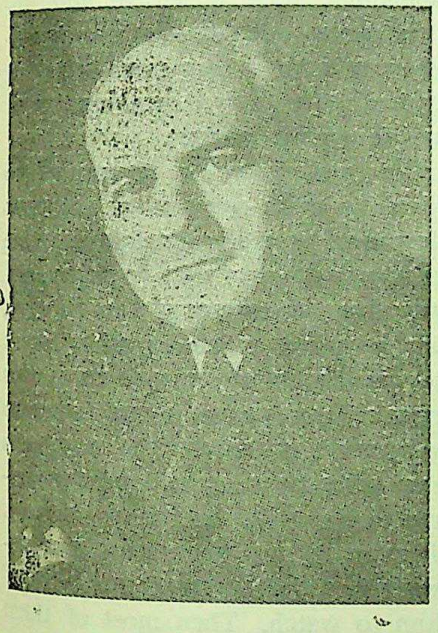
SHIV K. KUMAR

A Man of the Chameleon's Dish*



Allen Lane—a queer mixture of contradictions

It all began in 1930 when Allen Lane, then a mere apprentice to John Lane at the Bodley Head, had a vision one summer morning. He was returning after a weekend in the country where he'd gone with Agatha Christie. Waiting for his train to London, he began to browse among books at the railway stall. There was nothing for him to pick from the hardcover titles arrayed on the boards. All dull reading material, exorbitantly priced! Then, in a sort of epiphanic revelation, he envisioned a publishing house entirely devoted to inexpensive reprints of books of abiding interest, at a price which was within the reach of even a chimney sweeper or charwoman. That vision was the genesis of a publishing venture that has now grown into an empire spanning reading audiences from New York to Sydney, with London as its capital.

But it was not easy sailing during the first few months. The old guards promptly mobilised all their resources to stifle the new infant out of existence. Allen Lane was staunchly opposed by such stalwarts as Chatto-Windus and other established publishers who denounced the new venture as a mere freak. Who'd buy a wretchedly priced paperback? A six-penny book must inevitably be a shoddy thing, a mere rag.

But Allen, who had now gathered around him a band of trusted colleagues and well wishers, pressed on. With a modest capital of a hundred pounds, he started publishing in a dilapidated crypt, under Holy Trinity Church, on Euston Road. The firm was christened Penguin. And in this grimy, dark place Mother Penguin had a litter of ten—"the first ten Penguins". It's with these ten firsts, now republished in facsimile, that Penguin's is celebrating its fiftieth birthday with legitimate fanfare.

It was a judiciously garnered package. Each title spoke for itself, without any blurb. No resumes, no biographical sketches of authors; in brief, no frills or trappings. The play's the thing! There were two detective thrillers—Agatha Christie's **The Mysterious Affair at Styles** and Dorothy L. Sayers's **The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club**: both superb stories of suspense and drama. Then there was Eric Linklaters' **Poet's Pub**, the delighftul **William** by E. H. Young, Susan Ertz's **Madame Claire**, Compton Mackenzie's masterpiece **Carnival**, Mary Webb's **Gone to Earth**, Andre Maurois' inimitable life of Shelley (**Ariel**), and Beverley Nichols' **Twenty Five**, a pleasant experiment in autobiography, charmingly foreworded by the author himself: "Twenty-five seems to me the latest

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age at which anybody should write an autobiography. It has an air of finality about it……A delicious age… The bones of a young man of twenty-five (according to the medical profession) are duly set, his teeth are ranged in their correct places, and many arid pastures have been made beautiful by the sowing of his wild oats."

But above them all loomed Hemingway's great novel **A Farewell to Arms** which recreated in the minds of his readers the horror and ugliness of war, redeemed by romantic love. Even today any publisher could exult over such a galaxy of ten titles. And yet this was only a beginning for Allen. As Woolworth ordered ten thousand copies of each of these titles, followed by another order within a week, the young publisher felt amply reassured that his dream was taking shape.

But the establishment still didn't relent. **The Times Literary Supplement** of July 25, 1935, consigned these titles unceremoniously to the ignominy of a brusque footnote, predicting no future whatever for such an illconceived publishing venture. But in spite of all this critical denunciation, Penguins began to breed fast. And then appeared on the scene a young Indian barrister (an activist dedicated to the cause of Indian Independence), who wielded a felicitous pen and an irascible tongue—Krishna Menon! With his induction into Penguin's (with such other brilliant editors as Beales, W.E. Williams and Sir Peter Chalmers-Mitchell), this publishing house assumed a new dimension. Under a new name—Pelicans—(it seemed Allen never stepped out of his sanctuary of birds), the firm now published its first historic non-fiction title : Bernard Shaw's **Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism,** followed by several other non-fiction titles.

Pelicans, also priced at six-pence, branched off into a variety of new areas—English literature, philosophy, history, human physiology, ballet, architecture—in fact, everything of human interest. There were now reprints of famous titles by Freud, Clive Bell, Roger Fry, Julian Huxley, Halevy, etc. By now the Penguin stream had swollen into a gushing river—of Penguin Classics, King Penguins, particularly Penguin Specials which offered incisive commentaries on current international affairs—e.g. **What Hitler Wants, Germany Puts the Clock Back,** etc.

Many of these titles turned out to be best-sellers, clocking up sales of about a quarter of a million within the short span of a few weeks only. In a letter to W.E. Williams (27 April, 1948), his friend and confidant, Allen wrote : "Whoever could have expected such a publishing revolution……I hope we'll have a lot more excitement before we're finished."

Was it in his quest of "a lot more excitement" that Allen, now riding the tiger, decided to publish D.H. Lawrence's most controversial novel **Lady Chatterley's Lover**? But soon he realised that he had taken on a multiborn dragon—the novel and the Obscene Publications Act of 1959. And then ensued a bloody battle between the Censor and liberal humanism, the latter represented by such distinguished defence witnesses as E.M. Forster, C. Day Lewis, Dame Rebecca West and a host of such other celebrities. It seemed as though the future course of all imaginative writing would be decided on the battlefield of the Old Bailey. So when the Penguin's won the case, the human right for freedom of expression was triumphantly salvaged. Even today the Penguin title **The Trial of Lady Chatterley's Lover** makes fascinating reading, being a landmark of liberalism over Victorian prudery.

Indeed, Allen did experience "a lot more excitement" before his death in 1970 from cancer of the bowel. Not only had he annexed the United States and Australia as the far-flung provinces of his empire, but he also now toyed with the idea of establishing a permanent Penguin Trust—a body of some British universities which would jointly "adopt" the Penguin's. Even though this plan never materialised, it certainly showed its proponent's dream of making his empire as multidimensional as possible.

And yet, paradoxically enough, the man behind one of the greatest publishing adventures of this century was a queer mixture of contradictions—"a man of the chameleon's dish". He was ebullient, insecure, malicious, wily, impulsive and unpredictable. But he was also a diligent quizzer," ceaselessly asking people questions, seeking their advice on all matters.

He was, however, a man of no learning—read very little and was devoid of aesthetic sensibilities. One of the few books that he often read was **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,** and he always relished reading aloud to his friends an episode from this novel. Tom is asked by his father to whitewash a fence. The boy feels miserable because he'd have preferred to play with his friends instead. But as he gets down to the whitewashing, his friends gather around him to watch. Then most of them suddenly feel impelled to have fun doing the fence. "All right," says Tom, "give me a dime and you can have the brush." So while his friends start drudging away at the fence, Tom gets busy counting his dimes. Maybe that's how Allen Lane ran his Penguin's—making others do the editing, production, marketing, etc. while he heard the pennies drop jingingly into his money box.

Since Penguin's broke new ground in the publishing world, several other paperback publishers have followed on—Signet, Mentor, Avon, Warner, etc. in the States; Picador, Pan, Granada, etc. in the U.K. In India

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too softcover publishing has caught on, and among the leading paperback publishers may be mentioned Orient, Sterling, Hind, Sangam and Vikas. The House of Rupa, Penguin's representatives in India, are themselves a publishing firm of repute.

India has been associated with Penguin's since Krishna Menon's induction into its editorial board. The first Penguin Special by an Indian author was **The Problem of India** (May 1940) by Shelvanker, followed by two novels by the celebrated novelist, Mulk Raj Anand—**The Untouchable** (Feb. 1941) and **Coolie** (April 1945). Among the more recent Indian authors published by Penguin's may be included R.K. Narayan, G.V. Desani, Adil Jussawala, Romilla Thapar, Anita Desai, Bharathi Mukherji, M.J. Akbar and Balraj Khanna.

Not all these choices have been truly worthy of Penguin's. For instance, Khanna's novel **A Nation of Foods** is just a loosely structured story of the Partition, with the sole objective (like V.S. Naipaul) of presenting India as an area of darkness. M. J. Akbar's **India : The Siege Within,** though a brilliant piece of political commentary is essentially geared toward establishing India as a house divided, with a grim future. Maybe there's something of the colonial hangover conditioning some of these selections. But, mercifully, such awkward choices are rare !

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MANORAMA JAFA*

Children's Literature: The Indian Scene

India is a large country, with sixteen languages and 1652 dialects. Among its population of 700 million are people belonging to different religions. Customs and practices differ widely from one part of the country to another. In 1983, there were 102 million schoolgoing children between the ages of 6 and 17. The reading materials available to them were only about 3% of the total number of books produced in the country.

Today India produces about 20,000 books a year and is among the eight largest book producing countries in the world. However, the number of books published for children (non textbooks) is less than 500 titles. Of the 3,000 publishers in the country, only about 10 are exclusively concerned with children's books. Some others make an occasional appearance in the field.

The children's book scene in India has however been changing rapidly in recent years. It has broadened its range, increased its depth and has gained by the growing awareness about the world. Books for children are being published in different language groups and their numbers are increasing year by year. The awareness among the parents that children need books has also been growing. In fact, the largest single category of books sold at the last World Book Fair at New Delhi were books for children.

A large number of books, of course, continue to draw their material from folk-tales, and other traditional literature. Some good non-fiction and plays are also being published. There are also collections of nursery rhymes and poetry. Above all, original and creative fiction is being published though in small quantities.

There are two levels of children's literature on the Indian scene.

Traditional Literature

India is a land abounding in tales and folk-tales. We have an ancient oral tradition, going back to the collection of stories called Panchatantra. These stories were passed from one generation to another by word of mouth and later came to be written in Sanskrit. Over the centuries these stories have travelled far and wide and have been translated into more than 50 languages. Over 200 versions of these stories exist today the world over. These stories have inspired writers to create similar stories for children. In addition to this vast reservoir, we have stories based on legends, mythology, religion, classics and history. A large number of books available for children today have drawn upon this source. This literature is rich in content with appealing plots and is very popular.

Nearly three-fourths of children's books today are based on these traditional stories and tales. The popularity of this literature is so great that a publishing house has brought it out in the form of comics, better known as Chitra Kathas.

While comics in the west are mainly based on entertaining stories with modern themes, Indian Chitra Kathas are intended for the revival of our forgotten traditional literature and are playing an important role in promoting awareness about legends and stories among the children. Astonishingly, children who had been reading comics imported from other countries quickly switched over to these comics. Even children who had not been exposed to comics also started reading them. Parents, teachers and librarians have been encouraging children to read these comics in the hope that this would make them familiar with the Indian tradition.

I was surprised to see at the last two World Book Fairs held in New Delhi that large crowds of children were wanting to buy these comics. Comics, of course, belong to another discipline and do not fulfil the requirements of a book. I mention this only to bring out the popularity

*Secretary-General, Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children; Editor, *Writer and Illustrator*.

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of traditional literature.

In Indian society, the family is traditionally regarded as the focal point of community life. Until recently, all kinds of entertainment were designed for the whole family, including children. No special importance was attached to children except when their needs were specifically spelled out, for example, their life at school and the world of their textbooks. Many of these traditional stories had religious origins and inspired religious festivities. For example, the Ramayana of Tulsi Das in Hindi provides the background story for the annually celebrated Dussehra festival, one of the most important festivals of northern India for hundreds of years. Stories from Krishna's life have also had great impact on the social and religious lives of the people. Similarly, the Jatak tales connected with the Buddha's life and Jain stories from Mahavir's life are popular. This tradition has inspired not only literature for young and adults but has also provided the background for plays, theatre, movies, performing arts, puppetry and even music and dance. The whole family together enjoys the various media of entertainment.

New and Creative Literature

Only in recent times have we begun to treat the child as an entity by himself, requiring literature prepared specially for him. This new and creative literature is another level of children's literature in India.

Most of this literature comprises biographies, short stories and information books. Full-length fiction, good quality non-fiction, plays, poetry, humour, science fiction for all ages have yet to develop adequately. However, there has been little effort to bring out books for very young children and for teenagers. The technical aspects of book production, illustration and designing have received attention only in recent times and some well-produced books are now available.

These developments have been pioneered by some enterprising publishing houses like Children's Book Trust, India Book House, Thomson Press, Hemkunt, National Book Trust, Vikas Publishing Company, Publication Division, NCERT, Shakun Prakashan, Kitab Ghar, Arya Book Depot, Dehati Pustak Bhandar and many others. Among the publishers of children's books, Children's Book Trust has been a trend setter. Founded in 1957 by Shankar, it has produced about 200 titles in English. Many of these have been translated into Hindi, and seven other Indian languages. The books are priced moderately so that they are within the reach of a large number of children.

Children's Book Trust has also paid special attention to the training of writers and illustrators by organising workshops. It has supported the professional journal, *Writer and Illustrator*, and published a book, *Writing for Children*, the only book of its kind in the country which provides guidance on the art of writing for children. The Trust has brought out the first bibliography of children's books in English covering about 7000 titles in all Indian languages. To encourage creative writing, it has been organising competitions for writers and giving cash awards to them every year.

AWIC

Shankar also founded the Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children at New Delhi in March 1981. AWIC today is an active forum for the development of creative literature for children. The Association provides evaluation services for writers and publishers and organizes competitions and monthly get-togethers of writers and illustrators. It has sponsored the opening of 10 libraries for children. Recently, it has assisted in setting up children's corners in public libraries in the resettlement colonies of Delhi. Besides, it undertakes research and conducts surveys. It also brings out a very well-produced quarterly journal, *Writer and Illustrator*, which gives information about children's books in India.

Translation

In a country like India, translated books are an important part of children's literature. Most of the translated works have come from the English language. Translations from one Indian language into another have not progressed very much. This has inhibited the spread of literature from one section of the country to another. Organisations like Children's Book Trust and National Book Trust are publishing translations of their titles in several Indian languages, but most of their original titles are in English. English continues to be an important link language in the country. Most of the imported books are also in English. Naturally, new trends in literature in the English-speaking foreign countries have had an impact on our new literature.

Indian Languages

Children's literature in Indian languages has also been progressing. The status of Bengali literature for children is unique among Indian languages. Children's literature in Bengali is a fully developed field as far as literary merit goes. Contemporary writing is also progressive and covers poetry, plays, science fiction, biography, humour, fiction and non-fiction for all ages, particularly for the old age group. In Bengal there is an old tradition of established and well-known authors writing for children also.

In Hindi, which is the largest language group in the country, there is a spate of books and a number of publishers have entered the field. Despite the widespread use of Hindi and its position as the official

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language of the country (together with English) and a vast readership, there are few exclusive publishers of children's books in this language. At the same time, there have been some welcome developments. Seven persons have obtained doctorates in children's literature from universities in recent years. There is also a monthly publication on literary criticism, *Bal Sahitya Samiksha*.

In Marathi, there has been a remarkable development of plays for children. In 1981, writers and journalists started a co-operative movement for promotion of good literature known as the Grantheli Movement. It will soon render a similar service to children's literature. In the state of Tamil Nadu there is a monthly children's magazine which is regularly published in 13 other Indian languages and has the largest circulation among the children's magazines in India. However, from the viewpoint of quality of production, books and magazines in English are far superior to those produced in Indian languages.

Organizations and Associations

Associations of writers have come up in several language groups, providing a forum for writers to meet and interact with one another. For example, in the State of Kerala, the establishment of the State Institute of Children's Literature has contributed to the development of children's books in Malayalam.

A number of children's periodicals have come up in different languages. Several newspapers and women's magazines regularly carry columns containing stories and other material for children.

With the fast increasing school education, Indian children provide a vast readership and today children are being offered more printed matter than ever before. The variety of Indian culture has been well depicted in children's books. Government and other agencies have also begun to develop special books for children living in rural areas.

Children's literature today is an emerging field with immense opportunities for new writers, illustrators, designers and publishers. The best of children's books bring great pleasure to those who create them and to those who read them. Writers, illustrators, publishers, editors and book designers have a great task ahead of them. All of us who are concerned with children's book publishing have a great responsibility and we hope we will stand up to the challenges that face us today.

Outstanding Academic Works

P.K. Gandhi
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SOCIAL CONTEXTS OF TRIBAL EDUCATION; xii; 212 p; Tables; Rs. 150 $30
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K.P. ADHIKARY*

The Book Situation in Nepal

Regional Scene

Even though book publishing—coming after food, shelter and clothing—is fourth on the list of priorities of Asian governments, little importance has been attached to the development of publishing in the region. In spite of four decades of efforts at economic development, publishing in Asian countries lags far behind.

In terms of number of copies, titles and coverage of subjects, book production is very low in Asia. A study of books produced in the world shows that our share of world book production is decreasing. No country in Asia except Japan has the resources and expertise to fulfil the ever growing need for books. Neither the governments nor the private sectors have adequate financial and other resources to meet the requirements of reading materials. Government policies in regard to book publishing are not encouraging. In many Asian countries, including my country, Nepal, Government control over textbook publishing has created a situation where book production is no longer an attractive business. This is because more than 80% of the books produced in these countries are school textbooks.

Besides, in many Asian countries there is no overall plan for book development and therefore the roles of the private and public sectors are not pre-determined and evolved as part of the national plan. What is urgently required, therefore, is to determine the respective roles of the private and the public sector in the book publishing business under an overall national plan for book development.

Publishing in Nepal

Despite the fact that the importance of books in the development of society has been recognized, the Government has not made any provision in the national plan for promoting the book industry as an integral part of overall national planning. I guess more or less the same situation is obtaining in some of the other Asian countries. Although in the past several recommendations were made and resolutions passed at meetings and conferences urging national authorities in many Asian countries to treat book development as an important part of all around national planning, very little attention has been paid to this matter. I believe that the time has come when book development specialists must evaluate how far these recommendations have been accepted and implemented by the governments concerned.

Book Industry

Since book publishing in Nepal, as in some other countries, is not treated as an industry, it is deprived of the opportunities available to other industries. The time has come when book publishing should be upgraded to the status of a major industry so that books can play a vital role for the betterment of society. It is an interesting fact that when printing paper is blank, it is accepted by financial institutions as mortgage against loans, but the moment it is printed, it ceases to have commercial value as security for a loan. Unless book publishing is recognized as an industry, the situation will remain as it is for years to come.

Indigenous Authorship

Indigenous authorship is a very important element in any scheme of book development. Without the author, the whole edifice of book production is bound to collapse. The problem in Nepal is not that we lack indigenous authors, but that the authors are not sure that the profession of book writing is a viable one. It can hardly be overemphasized that the development of indigenous authorship is conditional on book publishing being treated as a

*K.P.Adhikary is Chairman of Sajha Prakashan. He has participated in seminars and meetings organized by *UNESCO* and is a key member of the publishing industry in his country.

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vital industry and an important part of national development planning.

Printing

Printing in the modern sense of the term started in Nepal in 1951. During the last century and a quarter, printing in the country has developed from hand-operated treadle machines to web-offset. However, most of the printing is done with the help of outmoded equipment. At present we have four hundred printing presses, most of them equipped with old model machines. Only a dozen printing plants have modern equipment in Nepal. About six thousand employees are working in the printing industry. Almost all the printing houses derive their earning from job work, and a few from the printing of periodicals.

While books imported into Nepal are not taxable, paper, ink and the materials required for the printing of books are taxable items. The net result is that printing books outside or importing them costs less than printing them in Nepal.

Raw Materials

In Nepal we do not have a paper mill yet. However, we expect that shortly we shall start producing printing paper locally. The capacity of the present plant is ten tons a day. As for ink, local requirements are met by imports from abroad. This situation will continue for some years to come. Since we are dependent on foreign countries for our requirements, the supply of these materials is not regular and therefore an acute scarcity sometimes develops. In order to ensure a regular supply of paper, some arrangement in the form of a "Paper Bank" should be made.

Except for the mobile training courses conducted occasionally by the Asian Cultural Centre for Unesco, there is no facility inside the country for formal training in book publishing. Most of the local publishers, therefore, have very little opportunity for any formal or informal training. Training opportunities are equally essential for editors and translators. It may be recalled that a Unesco Regional Seminar of Experts on Book Planning held as early as 1979 in Bangkok recommended that a national plan for in-service training of the book industry personnel be formulated and implemented by each member state of Unesco; but no progress has so far been made in this direction.

Distribution

A book, however well written, has no value unless it is purchased and read. Bookshops are highly urbanized, but even in the rural areas there is a hunger for reading materials. Nepal, with its topography of ridged mountains and difficult passes and with 90% of its population living in rural areas, has had to face several distribution problems. The country still has to devise an economical and efficient transportation system for the movement of books and other reading materials to inhabitants living in its remote corners. Most of the retail outlets for books are centred in townships, and people living in rural areas have to travel far to visit a bookshop. Most of the regions in the country are inaccessible by road, and books have to be carried on human backs or airlifted to remote villages. Beasts of burden are also used for transporting books in the Himalayan region.

Interestingly enough, while there is a discernible book hunger in the rural areas, reading materials remain unsold for a long time owing to the low purchasing power of the rural populace. These adverse factors discourage retailers from going into the book selling business, which is seen as a commercial undertaking not viable in the rural areas. Moreover, libraries and book clubs, which are largely underdeveloped in the country, have not yet spread to the villages.

In addition to the problems of movement over difficult terrain and low purchasing power of the people, there are other problems, such as high air freight and postal charges. These are real constraints on the distribution of books in the rural areas, especially in the absence of concessional tariff for books and educational materials. It must also be added that books are not given any priority when it comes to airlifting them in the rush seasons.

Copyright

Except for a clause or two embodied in the Civil Code, Nepal had no independent copyright act till 1965, when an act including provisions for safeguarding the interests of authors and publishers was passed. Unfortunately, it has not yet been enforced as necessary rules and regulations based on the provisions of the act have not yet been laid down.

Nepal is not a signatory to the International Convention on Copyright as yet.

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SOEKARMAN*

Book Development in Indonesia

Background

When the Government of the Republic of Indonesia decided in 1969 to introduce the First Five Year Programme of the long-term National Development Plan, it was fully conscious of the powerful role of books not only for information and education, science and technology and recreation and culture, but also for the implementation and acceleration of development programmes. It has therefore set up national book development as one of the infrastructures to be improved in order to achieve the nation's goals. In the absence of books, the desire to elevate the intellectual life of the people, as stated in the Constitution, will remain a dream. The campaign launched by the Minister of Education and Culture in the early seventies for having the idea of lifelong education, accepted as a national objective, will for ever remain a meaningless slogan without the production of adequate books.

Encouraged by its successes in the economic sector during the First Five Year Plan, and inspired by the UN Declaration on the International Book Year 1972, the Government, in 1973, developed the following policies on books:

(a) To issue a political statement on the urgency of accelerating national book development to support the educational sector,
(b) to develop book production projects to supply textbooks for all stages of education, including books for new literates. Provision should also be made for the import of books for higher education,
(c) to issue a Presidential Decree on the production of books for school libraries,
(d) to seek Unesco's co-operation in the study of book problems and to prepare for the establishment of a National Council on book affairs to assist the Government in the development of a comprehensive book policy.

Organization and Activities

To realize the above objectives the Government established, by Presidential Decree No. 5/1978, the National Book Development Advisory Council.

The current membership of the Council, totalling 30 persons, consists of representatives of Government departments, book profession organizations (writers, publishers, booksellers, translators), and leaders in different walks of life interested in books and book production.

The main term of reference of the Council is to carry out nationwide studies of problems pertaining to books, to analyze them, and to submit proposals and/or recommendations to the Government.

Since the inauguration of the Council on 14 February 1979, the following progress has been made :

(i) The development of a comprehensive set of recommendations on book policies.
After a series of studies and discussions stretching over a period of almost two years, the National Book Development Advisory Council submitted a number of recommendations to the Minister of Education in 1981.
The Council urged the Government to enact adequate legislation, consisting of :
— a National Book Law,
— an Act on copyright,
— an Act on deposit,
— an Act on libraries.
In addition, the Council urged the Government to review existing regulations which had a bearing on books and book production, so as to bring them into harmony with the role of

*The author is Secretary of the National Book Development Advisory Council, Jakarta, Indonesia.

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books in nation-building.

(ii) The promotion of book production and book imports, including the problem of book manuscript development and translation, in both quantitative and qualitative terms.

For this purpose the Council recommended the Government:

— to encourage book writers by offering yearly prizes and awards for the best books,
— to encourage the publication of valuable manuscripts of low marketing possibilities,
— to take the initiative for the development of encyclopaedias, dictionaries, scientific books and books on research work.
— to encourage book translators,
(a) to translate foreign books on science and technology, literature and art, from foreign languages into the Bahasa Indonesia, and
(b) to translate valuable books and manuscripts from local languages into the Bahasa Indonesia,
— to assist translators of books written in foreign languages to get permission from the publishers concerned for the translation of these books,
— to pave the way for international co-operation, with special reference to Asian countries,
— to help publishers of valuable books through the purchase of a certain number of such publications,
— to help potential publishers get bank loans at low interest,
— to provide training facilities to editors, designers, illustrators, calligraphers and correctors, and also to arrange for training in promotion and management,
— to develop a mechanism for bringing about co-ordination between the Government and the private publishers,
— to introduce ISBN,
— to strengthen the National Bibliography as a vehicle for communicating information on book publications,
— to provide training facilities for book printing workers,
— to provide relief from import taxes for paper and basic materials required for the production of paper,
— to help university presses to carry out their functions as publishers for academic works,
— to strengthen the Centre for Grafica Indonesia with training facilities for book printing and publishing,
— to encourage book production in the rural areas,
— to facilitate the import of foreign books on science, research and technology needed for higher education and development purposes.

(iii) Acceleration of the distribution of books. For this purpose the Government was recommended:

— to provide loans and facilities for the establishment of
(a) book warehouses in the provinces, with especial reference to outer Java, and
(b) bookshops in the capital cities of the subdistricts,
— to buy books at or through local bookshops,
— to adjust postal rates for books in view of the vital role of books in nation building,
— to persuade the mass media to assist book publication at low cost,
— to encourage the publication of book catalogues and book reviews, and
— to provide facilities to publishers for book exhibitions all over the country.

(iv) Development of libraries and the reading habit in the people. To achieve this objective, the Government was recommended:

— to establish a national library system which should consist of
— A National Library in the capital of the Republic,
— Provincial Libraries in the 26 capitals of the Provinces,
— Public Libraries in municipalities, sub-districts and villages,
— Mobile Libraries to cover remote and unprivileged areas,
— School libraries at all stages of education,
— University Libraries, and
— Service and other special libraries,
— to organize training in librarianship in and outside the country,
— to develop guides and manuals on the management of libraries and book collections,
— to set up a censoring mechanism for books obtained by foreign agencies and other sources,
— to operate book mobiles in order to accelerate the availability of books for the villagers,
— to develop the reading habit in students by giving them continuous training in the use of libraries,
— to develop the reading habit via existing village learning groups, boy scouts and women's organizations.

(v) Research and development. Research on books and book development should be carried on continuously, with especial reference to book publishing, bookselling and the people's interest in reading.

In 1980, the Minister of Education

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and Culture issued a book policy, comprising the following subjects:

(i) the supply of textbooks for all stages of education in accordance with the national book production and book import policy, (especially to meet the country's higher educational and research needs),

(ii) The supply of books for school libraries using a special budget by Presidential Decree,

(iii) Encouragement of the production of books on science fiction, and books for children.

Participation of the Private Sector

Book development has its effect on almost everyone in the community. Books play a major role in spreading information, education, science and technology, enriching the human life and culture and helping the development of a country. They also affect the lives and careers of many people, especially those who are themselves involved in book programmes, such as authors, translators, publishers, book printers, booksellers, librarians, government officers, and the like. Book development is not a monopoly of the Government, but a national interest, and even, to a certain extent, an international matter.

Even though the Government of the Republic is carrying out an extensive programme on book production, the bulk of national book development still remains in the hands of private publishers, booksellers and others.

Books are not only the concern of producers, but also of users. Therefore, almost the whole society has its part to play in the national book programmes.

Aside from the activities of the publishers association, a lot of book development activities are being carried on by non-professional organizations. Particularly notable are the activities of a private foundation called Yayasun Baku Utama (Foundation for Excellent Books).

This Foundation, which was established following the activities of the National Committee for International Book Year 1972, includes among its activities a yearly programme of evaluating books published during the preceding year. Authors and publishers of the best books are awarded attractive prizes and certificates. An important organization in the field of book promotion is the Book Lovers Club. This club publishes a monthly magazine containing articles and reviews on books and science. The Klub Perpustakaan Indonesia or the Library Club Indonesia is very active in promoting the use of books in the villages and assisting the rural and school libraries.

A lot of other organizations and government offices organize and edit book manuscript contents.

Conclusion

Although a lot of things still remain to be done, Indonesia has undoubtedly made remarkable achievements during the last five years.

(i) In the sector of legislation, for instance, the Copyright Act was issued last year while preparations have been made for the formulation of a draft for the Deposit and Library Act. Some regulations have been adjusted.

Book production has increased from 1272 titles in 1978 to 4000 titles in 1982 (see table).

(ii) In the sector of library development, the following libraries have been established :
- — the National Library
- — the 26 Provincial Libraries
- — 280 municipal public libraries
- — 200-400 village libraries
- — about 600 school libraries
- — 100-200 special libraries

The following statistical data, compiled by the National Library, shows the development of book production during the last 8 years.

The number of titles of books produced in 1982 is reported to be 4000.

(iii) In the field of research and development, the National Development Advisory Council has finished its studies on :
- — the condition and problems of books on basic science and technology published during the last ten years,
- — the current system of book distribution in Indonesia.

Other studies, which are still in progress, include :
- — children's books published in the country during the last 10 years,
- — the condition of publications on the social sciences and humaniora,
- — the condition of book authors,
- — preparations have been completed for the development of a who's who book on writers in Indonesia.

YEAR	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Generalities	85	41	36	54	101	33	90
Philosophy	68	43	21	31	37	58	113
Religion	401	297	108	152	158	109	268
Social Sciences	634	514	386	503	642	348	1184
Languages	140	33	55	34	31	30	128
Exacta	145	67	54	64	111	85	174
Technology	563	314	216	221	444	261	589
Art	74	33	44	70	86	52	107
Literature	136	48	37	22	24	317	710
History/Geography	193	106	80	121	76	89	237
TOTAL	2439	1496	1037	1272	1710	1382	3600

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RUTH McCREERY

Reading Habits of the Japanese*

In Japan it is hard to get into a bookstore. It is not hard to find one: with more than 500 major bookstores stocking almost everything published and 30,000 smaller stores and kiosks, a bookstore is never more than a few minutes away. No, the problem is getting inside, because the bookstores are packed with people, at almost any time of the day.

What keeps these crowded bookstores from being a sight to warm a publisher's heart is that many of the readers have come not to buy but to indulge in the national vice of 'tachiyomi'—reading books or magazines in the bookstore in order to avoid paying for them. Even so, the large number of people eager to read, if not buy, must surely be a healthy sign for the Japanese publishing industry.

Vigorous Publishing Industry

Indeed, the publishing industry in Japan is one of the most vigorous in the world. Book sales add up to approximately US $3.5 billion a year, magazine sales a further US $ 4 billion. And those impressive figures are due to high-volume sales, not inflated book prices. Books are a bargain in Japan, with average prices for new books under US $5 a volume and paperbacks usually less than US $2 a piece. In 1981, the Japanese bought 763,600,000 books at those prices, which makes six books for every man, woman, and child in the country. No figures are available on how many more volumes were read in bookstores and returned to the shelves.

The Japanese publishing industry is supported by a literate, highly educated population eager for information and entertainment. The post-war educational reforms, which made education through junior middle school compulsory, and the transformation of Japan into a largely white-collar, middle-class society have undoubtedly done much to boost the numbers of book and magazine readers. But the roots of the present publishing industry can be traced much further back to long before Japan opened its doors to Western influences.

The available books have something of an international flavour : about 10 per cent of new titles are translations. So active are the translators that books on particularly hot topics—typically the Japanese economy—can be translated and in the bookstores in Japan before the foreign language original has even been printed. For access to what is being published everywhere, Japanese is probably the best language to learn.

With their high sales volume, Japanese publishers should be happy, but they are not. One concern is a slowing growth in book sales. Until 1976, sales had been growing by more than 10 per cent annually : growth stayed between 7 and 9 per cent until 1980. For the past two years, however, book sales have remained stable while magazine sales have been rising. According to one figure in Japanese publishing, this usurpation of the market for books by magazines is shocking the industry. A related phenomenon that is also disturbing those who are concerned about quality publishing is a change in the types of books that sell.

Paperbacks are Popular

What are people reading? In a crowded bookstore, the only empty aisle has hardback new fiction and educational theory on one side facing art and literary criticism on the other. The business related section attracts more browsers, usually older men. Japanese history draws a few. But the aisles and aisles of paperbacks are difficult to walk down. The popularity of paperbacks is evidence of strong price resistance. If a book is priced over US $5.00, it will not sell; the reader will turn

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to a less expensive trade or mass market paperback. Why Japanese readers should balk at paying more than US $5.00 for a new hardback when they pay more to see a first run movie is not clear, but to some extent books seem to be interchangeable, whereas going to see a new movie and watching an old one on TV are not.

In bookstores in the technical department, computer books are hidden behind a barrier of readers. The magazine sections are almost impossible to negotiate; it takes real determination to push one's way through the scrum to reach one's favourite magazine. But the most impenetrable barricade of totally absorbed readers is found in the *manga* section.

Craze for Comics

Manga are comic books, and their inspired drawings and appealing fastpaced plots attract a huge readership. They are a uniquely Japanese phenomenon, a popular art form with ties to the illustrated novels of the Edo period. Large yet inexpensive (they cost only about US $1 each), manga rely more on drawing and less on text than do American comic books. They also attract a wider and more dedicated, readership. Manga are popular with all segments of the postwar generations; the best-sellers have a circulation of 2 or 3 million copies a week. In fact, 27 per cent of the 4.3 billion books and magazines sold in 1980 were manga.

So despite the trend toward general nonfiction, by far the largest category of book selling in Japan comes under the heading of lighter reading, in the form of mass market paperbacks and magazines.

The epitome of this pattern is the wildly successful new magazine **Focus**, a highly topical weekly that makes effective use of dramatic photos. The basic **Focus** article covers two pages, one for the picture and one for the text. The reader looks at the picture, scans the text, and receives a quick, shallow, but memorable impression of the topic. The magazine has been so successful that long-established weekly news magazines are also turning to the heavily illustrated, two-page format.

Some see the growing preference for short, simple books and heavily illustrated magazines as signs of a fundamental change in the relationship of many Japanese to the printed word. Young people—under thirty—are thought to be "alienated from print" and orientated to "looking rather than reading". They do not read more difficult fiction or nonfiction works because they find sustained concentration on the printed word unappealing, perhaps impossible.

The culprit, this argument goes, is television. With a color set in almost every household in Japan, and children exposed to TV programs almost from birth, it is natural that many should feel concern over the effects of the medium on psychological processes.

But there is future for book publishing since television introduces people to a wider range of experiences but cannot satisfy the desire that is aroused for more knowledge. Television is not good at the nonfictional presentation of a subject in depth. Viewers, stimulated by television. turn to nonfiction books.

Impact of TV

The immediacy of television has had its impact on the world of fiction as well. Television has much more power to create suspension of disbelief than does the written word. It is easier by far to become absorbed in a TV drama than in a book : it doesn't require any imagination. People are satisfying their need for the world of fiction by watching television.

But one genre of printed fiction has been less harmed than helped by television: manga. Shibuya points out that reading manga has much in common with watching television. Both media rely on visual presentation and the comprehension of rapidly changing images, not the liner order of print. And while a large proportion of Japanese television time is, in fact, devoted to manga, watching them does not replace reading the comic books them selves, for the television versions are only adaptations of stories which originally appeared in print and frequently display inferior art work.

If the influence of television reduced young Japanese to a state where they were able to read only manga, illustrated magazines, entertainment fiction, and light nonfiction, then there would be grave cause for concern not only about the future of the fine books publishing industry in Japan but also about Japan's future as a cultural and as an industrial power. However, the Japanese educational system is extremely good at producing young people who are in fact highly literate in the old-fashioned linear way. The competitive examination system which governs high school and university placement demands a fair knowledge of mathematics, science, Japanese literature.

Obviously, then young Japanese can read such books. Television has not, as the most pessimistic observers fear, completely short-circuited their capacity for linear thought. But perhaps their book-buying choices are truly a case of preference, not incapacity. The books which are associated with the rigors of Japan's high-pressure formal education system are exactly the ones people are not buying : literary and scholarly books. Perhaps the real culprit behind the recent shifts in readership is not television but an educational system that inadvertently leads its pupils to associate learning with pain.

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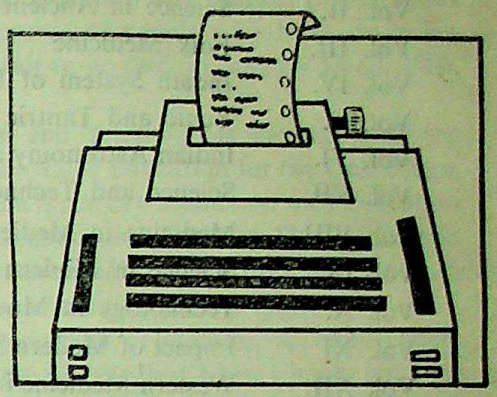

NEWS AND EVENTS

SAHITYA AKADEMI FELLOWSHIPS

Sahitya Akademi Fellowships were presented to Dr. K. Shivarama Karanth, Prof. K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar and Prof. Umashankar Joshi in New Delhi on August 28.

The Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is the highest literary honour the Akademi confers on a writer and is comparable to membership of the French Academy. The Fellowship had so far been conferred on twenty-five writers of whom only eight are living today.

NCERT AWARDS

Twenty-one national awards for best children's books and manuscripts in Indian languages, including English, have been announced by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Each award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 and a certificate. Children's books for 5 to 8, 9 to 11 and 12 to 15 age-groups published during 1980, 1981 and 1982 were eligible for the competition.

ICCSR MEMBER-SECRETARY

Dr. Iqbal Narain, Professor of Political Science, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, and a former Vice-Chancellor of Rajasthan and Banaras Hindu Universities, joined the Indian Council of Social Science Research as Member-Secretary on August 26 for a period of three years.

YOUTH BOOK EXHIBITION

The annual exhibition of the International Youth Library will take place from November 22 to December 18, in the Bavarian Staatsbibliothek in Munich. There will also be a special display in observance of the 30th Anniversary of the Austrian *Jugendbuchpreis*.

HUNGARIAN BOOK EXHIBITION

An exhibition of Hungarian scientific books will open in New Delhi on October 10, 1985. It has been organized by the publishing house of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is eager to develop commerical relations with Indian publishers/distributors. Mr. Peter Inkei, Deputy Director of the Publishing house, will be present during the exhibition period to negotiate with Indian publishers/distributors.

The publishing house of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was founded in 1950. The Academy has published about 25,00,000 volumes since 1950.

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NETAJI'S SPEECHES

Two unpublished speeches and an article of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose have been found "unfit for publication by the Indian Council of Historical Research. One speech was delivered in London in 1933 and the other at Tokyo University in 1944. The article was a thesis written in Kabul after his escape from India in 1941.

On April 18, the Netaji Subhas Research Bureu sent a strong protest note to the ICHR, to which the Research Officer of the ICHR, Mr. P.K.V. Kaimal, sent a one-line reply on June 18, stating that the Council could not "do anything further in the matter".

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF WORLD LITERATURE

The Nagri Pracharini Sabha will soon publish an Encyclopaedia of World Literature in Hindi, covering about 5,000 pages in eight volumes. According to Mr. Sudhakar Pandey, general secretary of the Sabha, the work is past the manuscript stage and printing of the first volume will be completed before the end of this year. About 100 authors have contributed to this encyclopaedia—the first work of its kind in India. It includes critical studies of literature in major world languages besides literary surveys of works in all major Indian languages.

TEXTBOOKS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

An increasing number of books written by Indian authors are being adopted as textbooks in developing countries. According to book publishing sources, about 200 Indian books are being used as textbooks in Jordan, Egypt, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Most of these textbooks are on management, medicine and sicence and technology.

BOOKS ON PRINTER'S AND PUBLISHER'S TERMINOLOGY

Following a very encouraging response to the book 'Composing and Typography Today" by B.D. Mendiratta, Head of the Department (Printing Technology), Pusa Polytechnic, Pusa, New Delhi, Printed Publications have decided to bring out a second book in the series, *Printer's and Publisher's Terminology*, written by the same author.

Printer's and Publisher's Terminology is an important tool to solve queries and to understand the technical and difficult language of editors, printers, publishers, designers and all others engaged in the publishing, printing, packaging and graphic arts industries. It brings together in one volume about 2000 technical terms and common abbreviations.

NBT URGED TO AID PRIVATE PUBLISHERS

The Karnataka State Booksellers and Publishers Association has made a strong plea to the National Book Trust to give more support to private publishing houses, since the Government has failed to publish books in a wide range of subjects.

At a recent meeting in Bangalore with a five-member working group of the National Book Development Council, Mr B.S. Venkatarama Setty, Association Secretary, said this could be done by way of a more liberal subsidy. He stressed that it was the private publishing industry which was catering to the needs of colleges and higher institutions and professional academic libraries and bodies. Presently, the subsidy was confined to Delhi-based publishing houses. For regional languages, the subsidy was taken by the NBT itself.

Mr Setty told the working group that it was high time the RBI gave instructions to scheduled banks to treat the bookseller and publisher as an industry and extend to them facilities offered to other small industries. He said as Government and quasi-Government units utilised two-thirds of paper produced and imported into the country, private publishing units faced an acute shortage.

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IN AID OF THE BLIND

The Sir M.V. Auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in Bangalore was the venue of a book fair from July 15 to 25. Half the profits from the sale of books will go in aid of the Ramana Maharishi School for the Blind. Between 50 and 60 per cent of the books on display were for children.

FIP OFFICE-BEARERS

The following have been elected office bearers of the Federation of Indian Publishers for the year 1985-86.

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Hony Treasurer — Mr. A.S. Chowdhary, New Light Publishers, New Delhi.

OBITUARY

The Delhi Printers Association has announced the death of its President, Mr. Ram Krishan Chawla of Indian Art Press, in New Delhi on August 24.

S.S. DIKSHIT BEREAVED

Mrs. Rajrani Dikshit, wife of Mr. Sudhakar S. Dikshit, Managing Director of Chetana (Pvt). Ltd., Bombay, well-known publishers and booksellers, died after a heart attack on the midnight of May 9, 1985.

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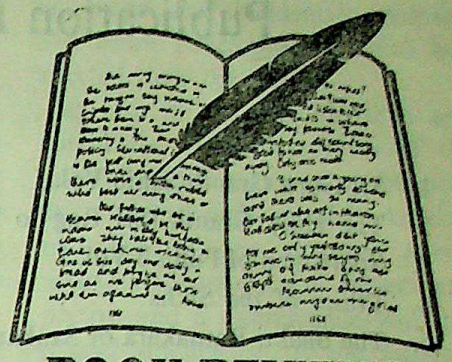

BOOK REVIEWS

ASSAM: A BURNING QUESTION by Hiren Gohain, Spectrum Publications, Guwahati, 1985, pp. 183, Rs. 95.

This is a collection of articles on the Assam movement aimed against foreign nationals. The author has been involved with the movement from its beginning, first as an outspoken critic and later as a sympathetic observer of it. The articles were written mostly in the later phase of the movement, though a few dating to an earlier period have also been included.

The author tries to form an idea of the cross-currents in the movement and the forces giving rise to them. He also attempts a study of the development of the movement through its different phases.

A distinctive feature of the book is its cultural approach to the basic issue. The author sees in the complicated situation the travails of a small nation caught up in the movement of gigantic forces of history, but makes no concession to negative chauvinism and secessionism.

SINO-INDIAN BORDER DISPUTE, by Lt-Col. D.K. Banerjee, Intellectual Publishing House, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 116, Rs. 70.

The book traces the history of the Sino-Indian border dispute and attempts to critically analyse it in the context of China's recent offer of a 'package deal'. In doing so, it also delves into the history of our northern borders from the Vedic times to the present day. It makes a deep analysis of the Chinese claims and counter-claims and the facts that emerge are laid down for the readers to see.

In the process, the author answers questions that have been bothering and confusing us such as : Are our northern borders historically and legally valid? Whom does Aksai Chin belong to? Is the McMahon Line valid? Did Tibet have treaty-making powers when they signed the Simla Convention of 1914? Which areas are still under the illegal occupation of China? What is China really offering us in its 'package deal'?

MARTYRDOM OF INDIRA GANDHI, by B.K. Ahluwalia and Shashi Ahluwalia, Manas Publications, Delhi, 1984, pp. 135, Rs. 125.

Trust need not always beget trust. This was proved on that Black Wednesday morning when two men, who were part of the special security force deputed to safeguard the person of Indira Gandhi, turned assassins and rained a volley of bullets on her. Once again, as many times before in history, fanatics who could not win point throughout discussion and their debate, had chosen to settle scores with guns. Their gain was, however, transient for in death, as in life, Indira Gandhi had stood for certain values. She never flinched from her chosen path of secularism and equal respect for all religions.

She faced challenges on all fronts. She took a firm stand against fissiparous tendencies, sacrificing her life so that the country should remain united. It is this sublime sacrifice on her part which has made her a martyr.

The story of Indira Gandhi's martyrdom will continue to inspire the future generations of India.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT—1919-1937, by Umeshwari Charan, Classical Publishing Co., New Delhi, 1985, pp. 250, Rs. 150.

The book is an attempt to bring to light some novel features of responsible government in the form of dyarchy which the province of Bihar experienced under the Government of India Act, 1919. Responsible government was partial because the system was hybrid. Political life under the system was rather adventurous. The people were pining for a democratic future but the deeply entrenched British bureaucracy was determined not to loosen its grip.

Against the prevailing notion that responsible government in the form of dyarchy failed in Indian provinces, it has been established on the evidence of facts that the system worked smoothly in the province of Bihar. Some organic defects were there, but the system did not receive a serious setback.

CONGRESS GOVERNMENT IN BIHAR by G.S.P. Ambastha, Classical Publishing Company, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 324, Rs. 180.

The present book makes an in-depth study of the role of ministers and parliamentary secretaries who were in the Congress Ministry of 1937-39 in Bihar. It systematically evaluates the performance of the Ministry in the social, political, and economic spheres which affected the

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people directly or indirectly.

The study is objective, investigative and reflects the critical vitality and interpretative acumen of the author. It makes a significant contribution to the domain of scholarly and critical writings on the great historical epoch of the Indian national movement.

THE CHALLENGE TO INDIA, by Hiranmay Banerjee, Shishu Sahitya Samsad (P) Ltd., Calcutta, 1985, pp. 160, Rs. 45.

In this probing study of the post-World War II crisis of the continuing technological revolution, Hiranmay Banerjee traces its spiritual insecurity back to the unholy alliance between egoism and power that lies behind the entire evolution of the Hellenic civilization to its present hedonistic drive working its way into the national ethos of almost every modern nation.

Against this he offers the alternative of the Vedic culture that has developed naturally over the years to redefine itself in terms of Vivekananda's typically Indian humanism, Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence and Nehru's ideology of democracy for far-reaching social revolution. He assumes for India a historic role, a behest—the task of defusing the tension, setting an example of how the problem of the individual as against society can be satisfactorily solved, evolving a way of life where conscience speaks with authority.

SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND ALIGNMENTS : A Study of Rural Bihar, by Hetukar Jha, et al. Usha Publications, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 88, Rs. 60.

This is an interdisciplinary study conducted by a team of investigators drawn from the disciplines of sociology, social psychology, history and English literature. It aims at exploring the modes of inter-connection between cooperation and conflict in the dynamics of social relationships at inter-group level in rural Bihar. The book develops an analytical framework for understanding the village structure as comprising primary and secondary levels. Within this framework, an attempt is made to analyse the relationship between the primary and secondary levels in three villages selected from three cultural zones of Bihar differing significantly in degrees of cooperation and conflict.

The study is based on an analysis of historical details of each of the selected villages and localities for understanding the present phenomena of polarization, alteration of caste and class relationships and of the vertical split in a rural setting.

EDUCATION FOR SOCIALISM, SECULARISM AND DEMOCRACY, by S. N. Jha, Amar Prakashan, Delhi, 1985, pp. 134, Rs. 80.

History bears testimony to the fact that every nation has had to devise a system of education in the light of its social goal. We have accepted socialism, secularism and democracy as our national ideal. Thus, we have to inculcate into the students a democratic and secular outlook so that they can play an important role in the construction of an ideal Indian system.

The book examines the aim of education in the light of our socialist, secular and democratic goals.

THE AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AND NORTHEAST INDIA (1836—1900), by H. K. Barpujari, United Publishers, Delhi, 1985, Rs. 160.

The American Baptist missionaries were the earliest and largest group of foreign missionaries who played a significant role in the socio-economic-cultural life of North-Eastern India. This study seeks to trace the early history of their evangelisation—successes and failures, problems and difficulties, contributions in diverse fields; linguistic, educational, cultural, moral and incidentally political and other developments which had affected their operations.

It also deals with the lives and conditions of cross-sections of the people with whom the missionaries worked and moved. Archival materials of the *Mission Rooms* apart, it includes for a better perspective and a clearer understanding, official documents of the Government of India, pieces of the Baptist Missionary Magazine, excerpts of private papers and contemporary and semi-contemporary works on the subject.

The introduction provides a panoramic view of the entire ground covered, besides the editor's observations and conclusions on the impact of Christianity, in the hills and the plains.

SEVENTH PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT OF WEAKER SECTIONS, edited by Jose Kananaikil Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 188, Rs. 30.

What is the aim of planning in our country ? Who are the architects of planning and for whom do they plan ? What attention do the poor, the disadvantaged, the oppressed—whom we condescendingly call the 'Weaker Sections'—receive in our Five Year Plans? Where is the planning process taking all of us?

These are some of the questions dealt with in this book. The papers contained in it were originally presented at a seminar organised at the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, from January 29 to 31, 1985. The contributors include a galaxy of eminent scholars like Raj Krishna, Imtiaz Ahmed, P.S. Krishnan, B.K. Roy Burman, M.S.A. Rao, N.R. Madhava Menon and Rajni Kothari.

A critical introduction, conclusion and recommendations of the participants and an extensive bibliography add to the richness of the book. At a time when the Seventh Five Year Plan

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dic attempts no serious effort has been made either to survey or to document or to comment on the paintings of the region. This is the first full-length study to be made of a prominent aspect of the paintings of Punjab, the wall paintings. It is based on extensive field work—almost village to village surveys across Punjab and Haryana—and as thorough a study of written records as was possible.

The study puts the art of wall painting in Punjab and Haryana in its context, while the emphasis stays on documenting the extant remains of murals, the analysis of their themes and a study of their technique and style as well as their painters and patrons.

NANDALAL BOSE, by Dinkar Kowshik, National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, 1985, pp. 125, Rs. 18.

Written in a lucid and simple style, this biography of Nandalal Bose has an authentic note of personal verisimilitude. It brings together, perhaps for the first time, many facets of Nandalal Bose the great artist between two covers. To the layman and the artist the book will serve as an introduction to the art heritage of the early part of the twentieth century in which Nandalal played no mean part.

PROVIDENT FUND, GRATUITY AND ESI READY RECKONER 1985, by Satish, C. Chowdhary, Chowdhary Publishers, Delhi, 1985, pp. 53, Rs. 25.

This book has been designed specifically for those engaged in preparing wage and salary bills and encompasses useful information concerning PF, ESI and Gratuity.

It contains tables and charts for calculation of contributions (single share) under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, Employees Family Pension Scheme, 1971 and Employees Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme, 1971. It includes ESI Calculation Tables for calculating employees' share at 2--% and employers' share at 5%. A Gratuity Calculator is also provided in the book.

The subject-matter has been strengthened by including the important forms prescribed under the Employees State Insurance (General) Regulations, 1950.

TAXATION AND FISCAL ADMINISTRATION IN ANCIENT INDIA by O.N. Tripathi, Upper India Publishing House, Lucknow, 1985, pp. 152. Rs. 70.

Dr O. N. Tripathi has had a brilliant educational career. He joined the Indian Revenue Service in 1958. During his 29 years' tenure in the Central Revenue Department, he handled various assignments, including that of Corporate Tax Planning Adviser to the U.P. Government. In 1982 he was elevated as commissioner of Income Tax. His yearning in research in ancient Indian history led him to delve into the history of taxation and fiscal administration in ancient India and the present work is the culmination of his efforts in that direction.

In this work the author has brought to light facts which render necessary a reconsideration and revision of the contention of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* that an organised system of taxation was unknown to the world till the advent of the Renaissance Age. Dr Tripathi has convincingly established that an organised system of taxation and financial administration was not only known but was meticulously practised in ancient India. He has further added a new dimension to the economic history of India by asserting that heavy taxation, coupled with inefficient administration, was responsible for the disintegration of two mighty empires—the Nanda and the Maurya—known to the ancient world.

YOGIC CURE FOR COMMON DISEASES by Phulgenda Sinha, Orient Paperbacks, Delhi, 1985, pp. 196, Rs. 20.

The book deals with yogic cures for human diseases in detail. The author, who is founder-director of the Institute of Yoga at Patna and Washington, has wide experience in this particular aspect of yogic culture. He has treated many at his institute and written a number of books on yoga. In this volume he discusses diseases ranging from indigestion to arthritis and heart ailments to neck and spinal pain and suggests suitable cures for them through the practice of yoga.

PROGRAMMING IN PASCAL by N.L. Sarda, Pitambar Publishing Co., New Delhi, 1985, pp. 322, Rs. 26.50

Pascal is a modern programming language which is both simple and rich in its facilities. Its careful design and richness in data and control structuring facilities have made it an ideal language to teach systematic programming to the beginners. Also, its use in various kinds of computer applications, including scientific and business, is widespread and growing constantly.

This book covers the Pascal language in full details in small incremental steps, illustrating each with meaningful and interesting examples. As much as Pascal, it also concentrates on systematic techniques for writing 'good' programmes.

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL CENTRES ASSOCIATED WITH APEID 1983-1984. Unesco Regional Office for Education in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 1983.

The Asian Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) has as its primary goal to contribute to the building of national capabilities for undertaking educational innovations linked to the problems of national development,

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HERALD OF LIBRARY SCIENCE : TREND REPORT CITATIONS AND INDEX, by S.S.I. Pal, Gina House (Publishers), Chandigarh, 1985, pp. 94, Rs. 265.

This is the first title in the series. "Indian Library and Information Science Periodical Literature Indexes" and covers the journal *Herald of Library Science*, The study is in three parts. Part I is a trend report evaluating the journal's coverage since its inception in 1962 upto 1983 and covers research paper,—articles, reports, technical notes, proceedings, and some selective award citations and profiles. The ten specific areas that were subjected to statistical analysis and commentaries include the Academic Libraries., Automation; Cataloguing; Classification; Documentation; Reference Service and Information Science; and University Libraries.

Part II carries a complete list of bibliographic citations arranged alphabetically.

Part III is the subject index.

KHAJURAHO : Erotica & Temple Architecture by Maqbool Ahmad, Asian Publications Services, 1985, pp. 80, 53 pp. illst., Rs. 200.

The art of Khajuraho is the Art of Temple Architecture. In the sacred atmosphere of these temples, one witnesses the intense moments of union of couples in various moods and forms. They depict no ordinary union of men and women. Instead, they are the manifestations of the cosmic form : 'Purusa' the God with 'Sakti', the mother form. They are in union as part of prayer and relitious rituals. Their actions have been depicted by the marvellous chisels of the master craftsmen of the time who have left a legacy unrivalled by any architectural remains in any part of the world.

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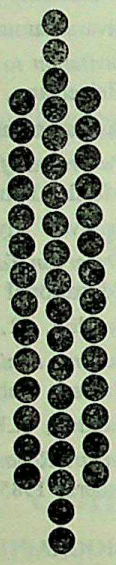

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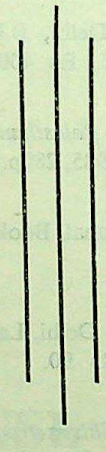

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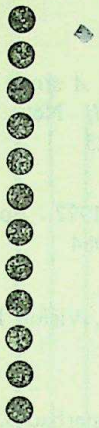

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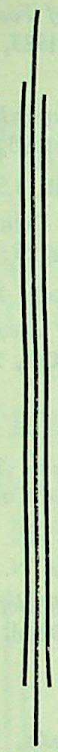

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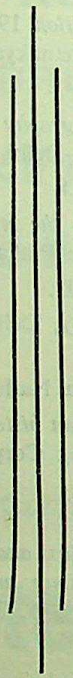

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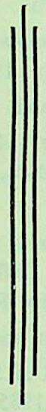

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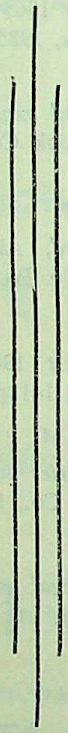

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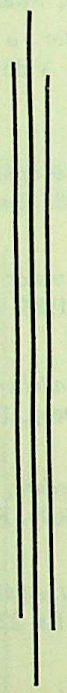

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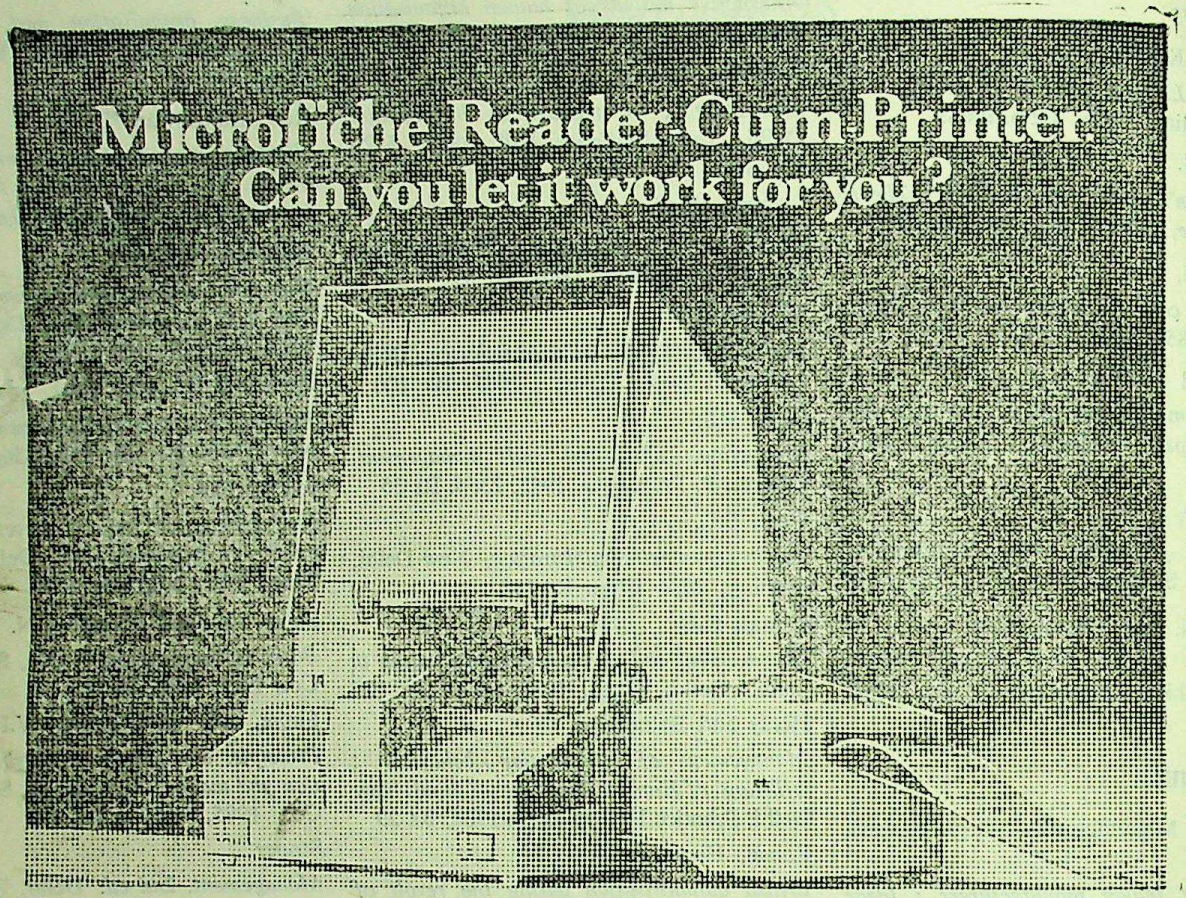

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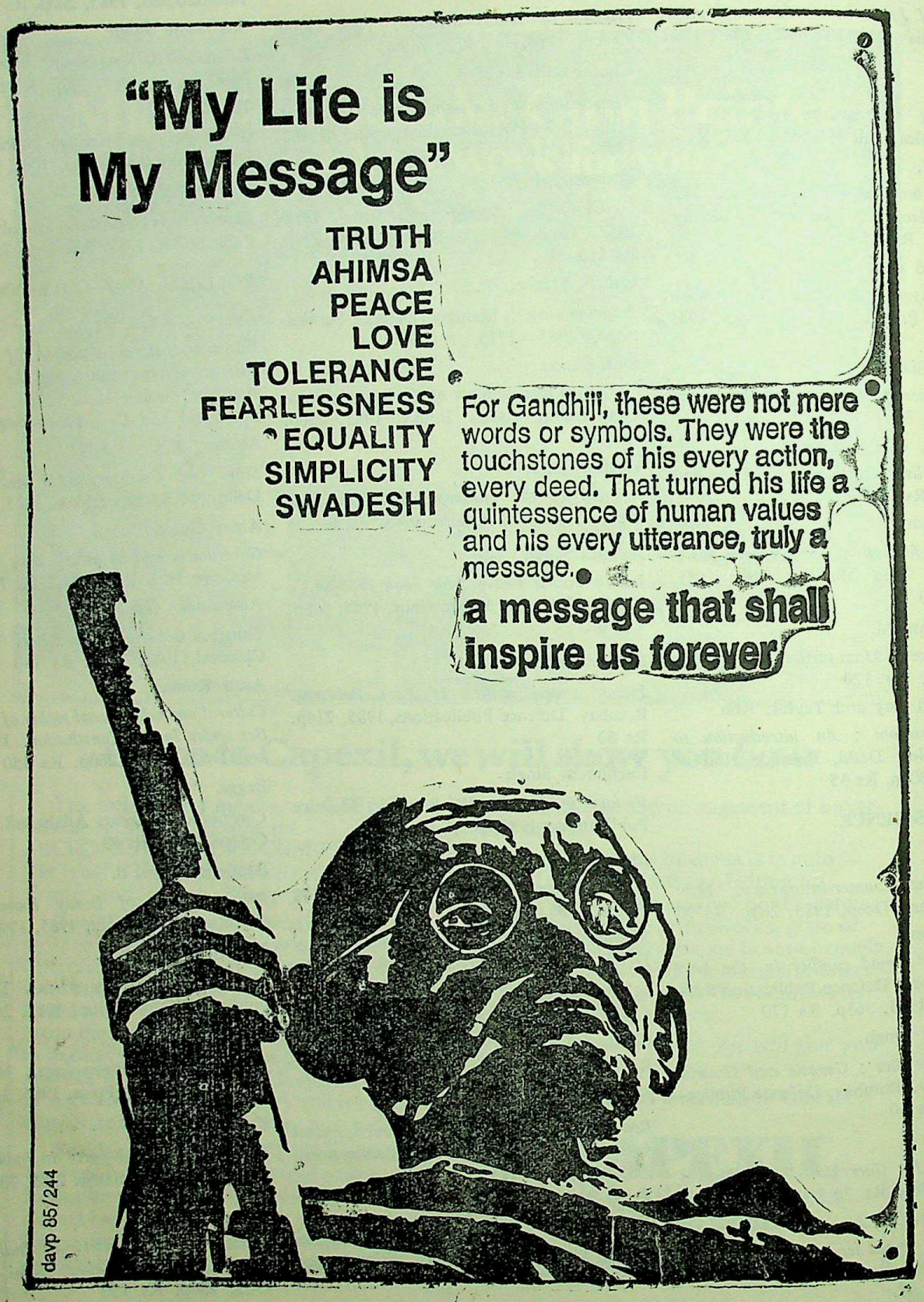

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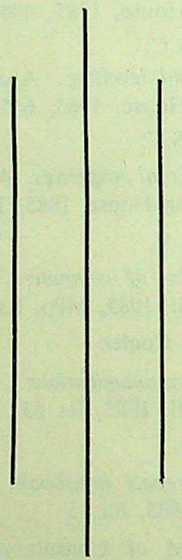

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A SELECT LIST FROM GIAN

Ahluwalia, B.K. and Ahluwalia, Shashi. **comp.**

Social and Economic development in Northeast India.

23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 120

The Northeast region of India has over 26 million people of heterogeneous ethnic groups, distributed in five states, viz. Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya, and two Union territories, viz. Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. The regions' main problem is economic backwardness, accentuated by lack of communications. Since the Independence of India, particularly since the reorganization of the states in the region, a number of development projects have been taken up to solve those problems. Communication systems have been much improved and several industries have been started in the region. The present publication is a collection of research papers by competent scholars and articles by renowned persons concerned with the subject. The contents of the volume contains valuable data for further research. A long introduction provides the readers with an outline of the subjects dealt with in the papers.

Banerjea, Pramathanath

Fiscal Policy in India.

256 p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 180

The work, by an authority on the subject, covers the period from 1765 to 1922 and aims at presenting the different sides to every question in a fair and impartial manner. It is based on the authentic records like Parliamentary papers, Blue-books of the Government of India, etc.

Begbie, L.F.

Gazetteer of Chanda District in the Central Provinces. xxi, 464 p., 20 plates of ill., maps. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs 360

The work describes in great details, ethnology, history, archaeology, religion, social and economic conditions of a less known but historically important area of Central India.

Bloomfield, Maurice

The life and stories of Jaina Savior Pārśvanātha: Based on the Pārśvanāthacarita of Bhavadevasūri.

266 p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 180

The present work by one of the greatest indologists, is based on Bhavadevasūri's Pārśvanāthacarita, which is a complete account of the life of Pārśvanātha, the penultimate prophet of the Jains. The main part of the work is a digest of the stories interwoven in the original work and is preceded by an exhaustive scholarly introduction.

Bray, Denys de S.

The Brahui language : an old Dravidian language spoken in parts of Baluchistan and Sind.

2 v. (viii, 237 ii, 313 p.) : Vol. 1 : Introduction and grammar; Vol. 2 : Brahui problem and etymological vocabulary. **23 cm.** Cloth. Rs. 360

Brahui is a Dravidian language spoken in some parts of Baluchistan and Sind, now in Pakistan. Its isolated provenance has given it a unique importance in the study of Dravidian philology and history. The present work presents and authentic study on the ethnological and linguistic peculiarity of the Brahuis and an exhaustive analysis of their language.

Caṇḍeśvara

Vivādaratnākara of Caṇḍeśvara Thakkura: Portions dealing with Hindu Law of Partition and Inheritance. With English translation by Golapchandra Sarkar Sastri and Digambar Chattopadhyaya.

ii, liii, 94, 61, xv p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 140

Fourteenth century comprehensive work on Hindu Law, belonging to the Mithila school and held, down the centuries, in great esteem. The translation comes from the pen of two versatile scholars and practising advocates of the Calcutta High Court, in the nineteenth century. Includes an elaborate introduction on the history and development of Hindu law.

Das, Amarnath

India and Jambu Island: Showing changes in boundaries and river-courses of India and Burma from Pauranic, Greek, Buddhist, Chinese and Western travellers' accounts.

vii, 343 p., ill., maps 23 cm. bib. index Cloth. Rs. 225

An attempt to trace the history of such topographical changes in India, which have taken place since a few centuries prior to the Christian era. The author has started with Ptolemy (140 A.D.) whose is the first complete and reliable account of India and then compared Ptolemy's data with those available from the Puranas, the Mahabharata, and the Buddhist literature. He has arrived at starting conclusions about ancient coast line of peninsular India, correct identification of the

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Taprobane island, the old courses of the rivers like Ganga, Sindhu, Brahmaputra, Narmada, etc.

Das, S.T.

Tribal life of North-Eastern India: Zemi-Nagas, Mikirs, Dimasa-Kacharis : Habitat, economy, customs, traditions. 280p. (appro.) plates of ill. 23 cm, bib. index.

Cloth. Rs. 140

Former Assam province, now divided into five fullfledged States and two Union Territories, is the North-Eastern frontier region of India. It is of great strategic importance. The composition of the population of the North-Eastern region is a subject of worthwhile academic study. There are several tribes in the region, each having its own culture, traditions, customs and beliefs, of which Zemi-Nagas, Mikirs and Dimasa-Kacharis are believed to be among the earliest settlers and hence are most important and interesting. The present work is a successful attempt to study the lives of these three tribes with a general study on other tribes of the region.

Dey, Mukul Chandra

My Pilgrimages to Ajanta & Bagh: With an introduction by Laurence Binyon.

255 p., 51 plates of illustration and other line drawings.

23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 225

Fascinating story of an Indian artist's experiences in the Ajanta and Bagh caves which house the most wonderful paintings of ancient India. Includes illustrated interpretations of the best specimens from both the places.

Dutt, Romech C., 1848-1909

Open letters to Lord Curzon and speeches and papers.

viii, 661 p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 450

Romesh Ch. Dutt is a great name among the nineteenth century Indian thinkers on economic conditions and cultural heritage of India. The present volume chiefly comprises his speeches and writings on Indian questions, his letters to there Viceroy Lord Curzon on Indian famines and land tenure. The volume also contains four papers on the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, Hindu philosophy and Hindu religion.

Forbes, James

Oriental Memoirs : Selected and abridged from a series of familiar letters, written during seventeen years residence in India, including observations on parts of Africa and South America, and a narrative of occurrences in four India voyages.

4v. (xxiv, 482 p. xvi, 542 p., xii, 488 p. xii, 426 p., 122 plates of ill. (some col.) by engravings from original drawings) 31 cm. x 24 cm. Cloth Rs. 4500
(Reprint of 1813 edition).

Ganguly, Mano Mohan

Orissa and her remains, ancient and medieval : District Puri. With an introduction by J.C. Woodroffe.

x, 540 p., 30 plates of illustrations. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 360
A scientific exposition of the principles of architecture and sculpture found in the Puri District of Orissa. The work contains much original matter published herein for the first time and deals with the main features and subsidiary parts of the Orissan temples. Includes extracts from important *silpasastra* texts.

Grierson, G.A.

Languages of North-Eastern India.

2 v. (359 p.; 316 p.) 29 cm. Cloth. Rs. 900 per set

Survey of major non-Aryan languages in North-Eastern parts of India. Includes skeleton grammar, linguistic analysis, and reading material of each language.

Hammerton, J.A. **ed.**

An Encyclopaedia of Human Races all over the world. 7 v. (5536 p., 5000 black and white illustrations, 32 col. ill., 150 maps). 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 450

This authentic and comprehensive *Encyclopaedia* describes, the peoples of all nations narrating their habits, their customs and manners, their art and architecture, their religious beliefs and superstitions, and their feasts and festivals. Historical chapters in which every nation's story is briefly retold by competent historians, have been added. Photographers from all parts of the world including Britain's finest experts had been at work to enrich the pages of the work.

Hutton, J.H.

Census of India 1931 : with complete survey of tribal life and system.

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3 v. (xv, 518 p. fold maps 4, 4, 532 p lxxxi, 245 p 36 plates of ill.) ills., index. Cloth. Rs 700 (v. 1); Rs 700 (v. 2) Rs 450 (v. 3), Rs. 1800 for set

Hutton, J.H.

Chang language : Grammar and Vocabulory of the language of the Chang Nagas. Revised and edited with an introduction by S. Mukhopadhyaya.

160 p. (approx). 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 90

Chang is the name of a Naga tribe of obscure origin. The fountain head of this tribe is the Tuensang village in Nagaland. The tribe has a combination of blood and culture of two tribes viz. Yimt Sungr of the Central Nagas and the Konyak of the Eastern. They speak a distinct language, much influenced, of course, by the language of the Konyaks. The present work is a complete analysis of the Chang language, its phonetics, etymology, and syntax along with a Chang-English Vocabulary.

The Indian Annual Register : an annual digest of public affairs of India, regarding the nation's activities in the matters, political, economic, industrial, educational, etc. etc., during the period between 1919 and 1947. Edited by H.N. Mitra (1919-1925) and N.N. Mitra (1926-1947).

53 v. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 360 per vol., Rs 18000 per set.

A mine of information and data for the study of the political and economic developments and affairs of the states of India, Great Britain, and other allied countries, during the crucial years covered by these volumes. All the events related to the Indian Freedom Movements have been recorded to every minute detail. Functioning of the legislature, judiciary, and administration—three components of the Central and Provincial governments have been discussed with authentic records. An additional volume containing subject and name indexes is under preparation.

Jonarāja

Rājataraṅgini of Jonarāja : English translation by Jogesh Chunder Dutt.

xv, 452 p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 250

Jonarāja's Rājataraṅgini is the second in the series of Kashmir chronicles. It describes early Muslim regimes in Kashmir and its gradual Islamization. This is the only English translation of the text of Jonaraja which is a valuable source material of Indian history.

Jouace, Athol T. & Thomas, N.W. **ed.**

Women of all Nations : A Record of their characteristics, habits, manners and influence.

2 v. (792 p.) (647 plates of black and white and 24 plates of colour illustration, maps). 29 cm. Cloth. Rs. 2500

The work of encyclopaedic nature is the story of how woman has ceased to be the slave of man, as she is among the people in the lowest planes of culture, and has become his help-mate. It describes women of all nations and races, both civilized and tribal, as they are at the present by among the people of the world and brings out all important aspects of their life, viz. conception of beauty and ornamentation, dresses, music and dance, courtship and marriage, position in the family and society, role as the wife and as the mother, position of the widows, position in religion, beliefs and superstition, role in social organization and state administration, etc. etc.

Konow, Sten

Bashgali dictionary.

vii, 307 p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 180

Bashgali (Kafir) is an Indo-European language with much of archaeic features, and hence occupies an important position in Indo-European philology. This dictionary is based on the valuable material contained in colonel J. Davidson's notes on the language. All available words, their derivatives, and short sentences to show their use have been included and explained.

Krishnaswami Ayyanger, S.

Sources of Vijayanagar history : Selected and edited. xix, 394 p. 23 cm. geneal. tables. index. Cloth. Rs. 250

This is a systematic collection of all passages from relevant literature bearing upon the history of Vijayanagar, the last Hindu Empire in India. Some of the extracts are from unpublished manuscripts. An elaborate introduction gives the salient feature of the collection.

Latham, R.G.

Ethnology of Asia, Africa, and Europe : descriptive study of all races and tribes in three countries.

2 v. (524 p. 514 p.). 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 700

The work is an extensive study of almost all the tribes and races inhabiting Europe, Africa and Asia., Each area has been dealt with in an elaborate detail, covering all aspects of the tribe and race that exists in that area.

Ludlow, John Malcolm

Thoughts on the policy of the Crown towards India. xii, 369 p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 225

The present work, written by a contemporary British thinker, is an interpretative study of the Queen's Pro-

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clamation and post-mutiny policy of the British Government towards India. It takes up the Proclamation, section by section, and analyses the various promises contained therein. To make the subject properly understandable, the author has described the conditions prior to the Mutiny and the grievances of the people on various accounts, in great details. The work has been reprinted from the 1859 edition in view of its importance as source material for the study of the evolution of the British Raj in India.

Majumdar, R.C.

Champa : history and culture of an Indian colonial Kingdom in the Far East, 2nd-16th cent. A.D.

576 p., 22 plates of illustrations, map. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 360

Deals with the ancient history and civilization of Champa which corresponded with some parts of present Laos and Vietnam. Book one deals with the chronological history and Book Two, religion, civilization, art, and architecture. Includes a complete collection of inscriptions discovered in Champa and hitherto not published in any single book.

Majumdar, R.C.

Suvarnadvipa : history and culture of a Hindu kingdom in the Far East.

2 v. (xxvii, 436, 16, xiv, 354, 10 p., 75 plates of illustrations) index. Cloth. Rs. 630

Deals with the history and civilization of Suvarnadvipa which comprised modern Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, Java, Borneo and Bali Islands in the Far East. These places adopted and developed Indian civilization and flourished into great empires. First volume of the work deals with the political history of Suvarnadvipa and the second with cultural history comprising law and socio-economic conditions, literature, religions, use of Sanskrit language, and art and architecture. The only authentic book in English on the subject, by the foremost historian of India.

Mills, Arthur

India in 1958 : a summary of the existing administration, political, fiscal, and judicial of British India, together with the laws and public documents relating thereto from the earliest to the present time.

xv, 303 p. 23 cm. Col. fold. map. Cloth. Rs 225

Mills, J.P.

Folk stories in Lhota Naga : text with interlinear and running English translation. Edited with and introduction by Satkari Mukhopadhyaya.

100 p. (appr.) 23 cm. Cloth. Rs .45

The Lhota is the name of Naga language spoken by a group among the Nagas, called the Lhota Nagas. The language has not yet been properly studied due to paucity of recorded material. The present work is an attempt to combine with a record of their folklore a record of their language as actually spoken, which will be of interest to the philologists and upon which a simple and consistently spelt written language may be founded. The stories included in this collection have been recorded from the Nagas whose knowledge of their folklore is accurate and by a literate Naga speaking the same dialect. A simple phonetic system has been used to print the stories in original. An interliner word for word translation has been provided, which has been followed by a running translation. The collection is a specimen which not only shows the structure of the language as actually spoken but also reveals something of the mode of thought and traditions of those who speak it. The introduction presents an outline ethnographic study of the tribe.

Mitramiśra

Hindu Law of Inheritance, as in the Viramitrodaya of Mitramiśra. With English translation by Golapchandra Sarkar Sastri.

xv, 286 p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 180

Seventeenth century Hindu law digest, upholding the views of Mitākṣara and refuting the charges levelled by the Dayabhaga and other schools. English translation by a versatile scholar and practising advocate of the Calcutta High Court, in the nineteenth century.

Mohanty, Phani

The concept of Purusa and Purusottama in the Commentary of Śankara on the Prasthānatrayi.

p. 23 cr. bib. index Cloth. Rs 90

Most important of all the names of the Ultimate Reality used in Hindu philosophical works in Puruṣa, which is a concept with various interpretations in different schools. The concept has gradually been developed and given rise to the concept of Purusottama. These two concepts deserve a full-scale research which formidable task has been taken up by the author of the present work. He has based his thesis chiefly on the commentaries of Śankarāchārya on the Prasthānatrayi of Vedānta i.e. the Upaniṣads, the Brahmasutra, and the Bhagavadagītā. His review of the *Vivartavada* deserves serious consideration. Original texts have been profusely quoted and English translation of all quoted passages has been provided with.

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Moorcroft, William

A Journey to Lake Mānasarovara in Undes, a Province of Tibet: with an introduction by H.T. Colebrooke. Edited by Satkari Mukhopadhyaya.

160 p. (appr.) 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 90

Diary of journey of exploration of the Manasarovar and the adjoining areas in Western Tibet, undertaken by William Moorcroft, in early nineteenth century. The work contains valuable information—ethonological, geographical and cultural, about the region the author travelled through.

Mukhopadhyaya, Satkari

Concordance of the quarter verses in the Pali Tipitaka. 1000 p. (approx.). 29 cm. Cloth. Shortly.

The Pali Tipiṭaka is the religious canon of the Theravāda Buddhists. Committed into writing, in Sri Lanka, in the first century B.C., this collection is the only complete canon of a Buddhist sect, and hence is believed to contain the whole of the original teachings of the Buddha. The canon contains over twentyfour thousand verses, mostly in four feet and on certain occasions with two extra feet. It is rather difficult to trace a particular verse or a part thereof in the vast literature. The present concordance arranges all the quarter verse in the Pali alphabetical order which will facilitate the searching out of the quarters for the purpose of quotation, ascertaining repetitions, and comparison with other Buddhist and non-Buddhist religious classics of India.

Puri, R.L.

Dictionary of Administrative and Legislative usage: English-Hindi.

250 p. (appr.) 23 cm. Cloth Rs. 90

Hindi is the official language of Indian Union and several constituent States. It is, therefore, natural that more and more use of this language for all official purposes is being emphasized on. The purpose of this dictionary is to provide with a ready reference book of all technical terms and usages that are necessary for the administrative and legislative wings of the Government.

Roerich, George N.

Tibetan paintings.

176 p., 37 plates of illustrations. 29 cm. Cloth. Rs. 180

A connected history of the origin and development of Tibetan pictorial art as well as a critical and appreciative study of some specimens from various collections. Throws valuable light on designs, ornamentations, *mudras* and *asanas* and identification of a host of divinities.

Roy, Sarat Chandra

Oraon Religion and customs.

466 p., 32 plates of illustrations. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 300

A study of the religion and customs of the Oraons, an old ethnic community of Chotanagpur, Bihar. The study has been made without any prejudice and passion and presents accurate information about the deities, spirits and supernatural powers in Oraon religion along with detailed description of their religious feats and festivals, socio-religious writes and ceremonies, etc.

Sen, Sipra

Arunachal Pradesh and the tribes : select bibliography. 280 p. (appr.) 16 plates of ill. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 180

Arunachal Pradesh is an Indian state situated at the extreme northeast of the country. The State is important not only for its strategic position but also for its inhabitants—a number of tribes with distinct cultural life and peculiar socio-economic problems. It is, therefore, quite in the fitness of things that the State and its inhabitants have drawn attention of research scholars—both anthropologists and socio-economists. There is a continuous increase in the research publications, both monographs and articles in periodicals. The present publication is a select bibliography of such publications designed to facilitate the micro and macro level researches on the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.

Singh Deo, Jitamitra Prasad

Cultural Profile of South Kośala (Eastern Part) : From the early period till the rise of the Nāgas and the Chauhans in the 14th century A.D...

400 p. (appr.) 16 plates of 23 cm. ill. bib. index Cloth. Rs. 180

Three districts of Orissa, viz. Kalahandi, Balangir and Sambalpur formed the eastern part of South Kośala in ancient and medieval periods. Though many prehistoric findings and scattered antiquities have been explored, the history and civilization of this ancient part of Orissa has hitherto not been studied. The present work is a very successful attempt to fulfil this desideratum. The work is based on firsthand literary and archaeological material and deals with all aspects of the history and civilization of a part of Western Orissa.

Sivaswamy, P.S.

Evolution of Hindu moral ideals.

xix, 242 p. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 180

The subject dealt with in this book is of great interest to the students of social history, besides it has a valuable practical bearing upon some of the problems which

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affect the social life and evolution of India. It covers he whole of Hindu social life.

Spearman, H.R.

Gazetteer of Burma.

2v. (ix, 716, xxxv p. 859 p.) 23 cm. Cloth Rs. 900

The gazetteer which draws upon rare sources of indisputable authority, is a repository of valuable information about Burma. Volume one contains details of Burma's geography, geology, ethnology, customs and manners, art and architecture, agriculture history form the earliest times till the end of the second Anglo-Burmese war. Volume two comprises a directory of all villages, districts, mountains, and rivers.

Strachey, John and Strachey, Richard

The Finances and Public works of India : from 1869 to 1881.

iv, 468 p. index. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 300

The work is the joint product of two famous authors, two brothers who held quite a few high positions in the State of India, during the British regime, and influenced the policy and constitution of the Indian Government. The subject matters of the work are revenue, expenditure, debt, trade, taxation, currency and exchange, and various public works including the extension of railways and irrigation projects, during the period under review. The facts and figures have been recorded with intimate firsthand knowledge. A valuable source book of Indian economic history of the nineteenth century.

Stocks, C. de Beauvoir

Folklore and Customs of the Lepchas of Sikkim. Revised and edited by S. Mukhopadhyaya.

280 p. (approx). ills. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 180

The Lepchas who call themselves 'Rong' is a small tribe inhabiting Sikkim, now a state in India, and eastern part of Nepal. Though they have a fairly developed language and a phonetic script, they do not possess any written record of history worth the name. So it is difficult to get any authentic account of the Lepcha life and customs. The present work is the result of a painstaking research on the Lepcha life. Folklores related to the Lepcha religion and customs have been collected and translated. They are of great interest and immense research value.

The Svacchandatantram : with the Commentary Uddyota Kṣemarāja. Edited with notes by Madhusudan Kaul Sastri. (*Sanskrit; introd. in English*).

4 v. (ix, 253, 332 p. 352, 79 p. 560 p. : 148, 10 p.) 23 cm. (**Delhi Sanskrit series; no. 1**) Cloth. Rs. 630

The Svacchandatantra is one of the leading Tantras of the *Daksināacara* as it panegyries and initiates into the worship of Aghora, the right mouth of the Svacchanda-Bhairava.

Urquhart, Margaret M. 2nd. ed.

Women of Bengal.

vi, 144 p., 10 plates of illustrations 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 140

The women of Bengal have played an important role in the socio-literary-cultural life and the history of Bengal, during the nineteenth and the early part of the twentieth centuries. The present work describes the life of the Bengali women as it was actually lived till very late, together with its pains and pleasures, joys and sorrows, glory and shame, its beauty and ugliness. It is much more than recital of facts, it is a moving revelation, compelling one to think.

Vaidya, C.V.

History of medieval Hindu India : being a History of India from 600 to 1000 A.D.

2 vols. (432 p. 395 p.). maps. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 540

Besides presenting an authentic history of India in the medieval ages, based on hitherto unutilized source materials, the renowned author has tried to reply the momentous question : what were the causes of the down fall of the Aryans in India. The author has also a message to deliver to his countrymen, viz. conscious efforts should be made to develop the sentiment of nationality overriding all jealousies and linguistic and religious separation.

Williams L.F. Rushbrook. **ed.**

Great Men of India : including Indira Gandhi.

640 p., 354 illustrations. 23 cm. Cloth. Rs. 450

An attempt to tell the story of some of the greatest men who have made Indian history. The subjects of the book are divided into eight sections, viz. Rulers and Great leaders, Statesmen and politicians, Reformers and religious leaders, Authors and poets, Scientists, Educationists, Judges and Industrial pioneers. The biographies in the book serve to illuminate and in some sort even to recount the history of the land.

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